

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



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FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1852.

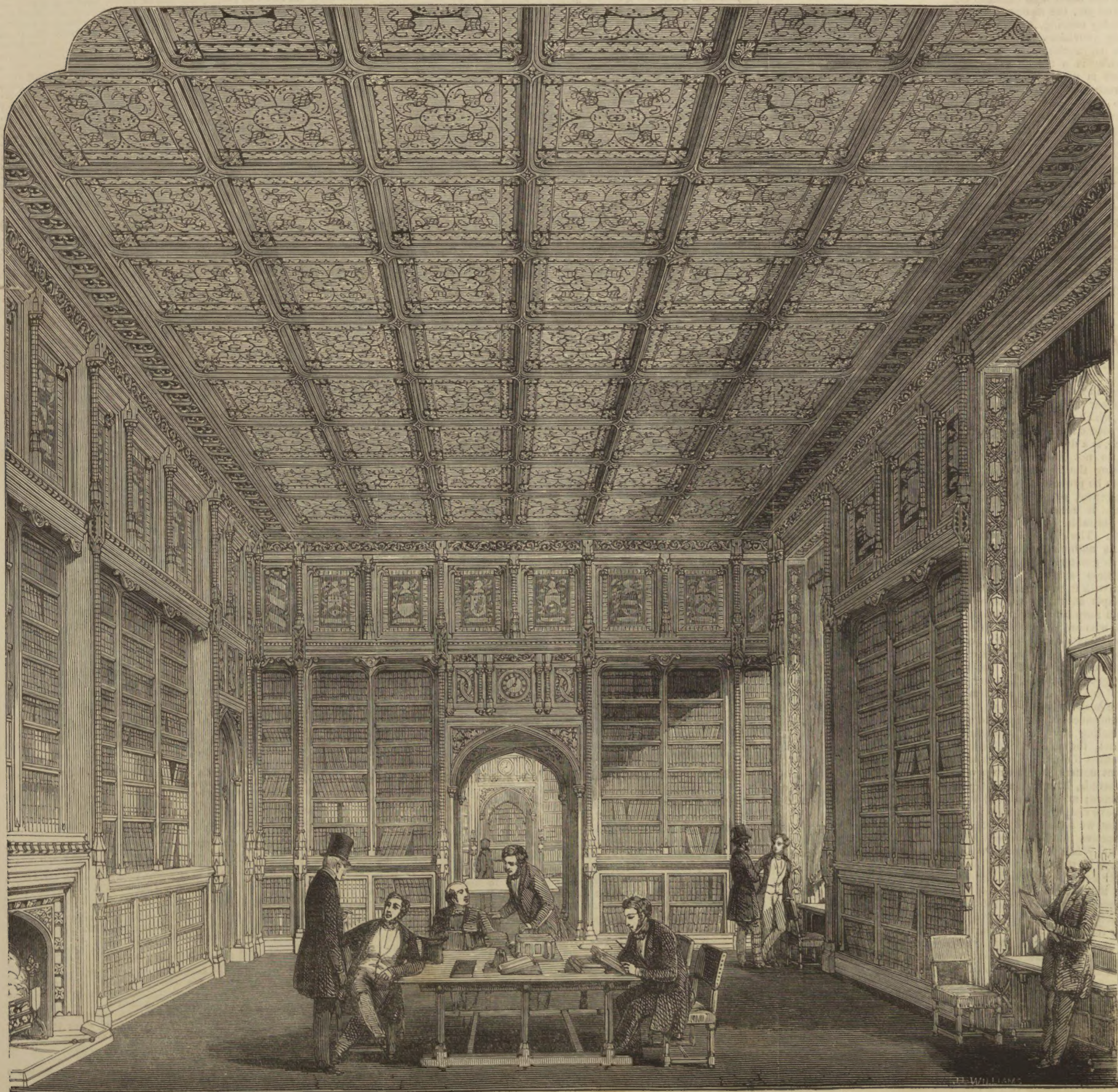
[SIXPENCE.]

THE NEW REFORM BILL.

TWENTY years ago, when Lord John Russell carried his original Reform Bill, the word "Reform" was a word of power. A palpable idea was attached to it, and it rang in the ears of the multitude like the old ballad of "Chevy Chase" upon those of Sir Philip Sydney, "stirring their hearts as with the sound of a trumpet." But those days passed, and "Reform" lost its charm. Too much was expected of it; and, when the fever heat of enthusiasm cooled down, the people discovered that they had been ex-

pending their energies in a vain pursuit. The desire of Reform, which never can be utterly extinguished in any nation claiming to be intelligent and free, took a more practical direction, and the Anti-Corn-Law agitation of the party independent of Whigs and Tories, succeeded to that which the Whigs had thriven upon for a whole generation. The common sense of the country found that, with all the defects, anomalies, absurdities, and injustices which the Reform Act had been insufficient to cure, the English people were both practically and theoretically free; and that Parliament, as the Reform Bill had constituted it, was powerful enough to remedy any

real and proved abuse. It was felt that the questions of most importance in our time were economical and fiscal—not doctrinal and philosophical. The sad experience of the oppressed nations of the Continent showed, at the same time, that bran new constitutions were somewhat like the pedlar's razors—showy but useless—capable of cutting and wounding, but not of doing the particular work for which they were intended. The uneducated classes, having the boon of a cheap loaf, were contented with the Government, and did not trouble themselves, while with the cheap loaf they had good wages, about forms and principles of legislation. The classes



LIBRARY OF THE NEW HOUSE OF LORDS.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

immediately above them lost faith in the principle of a greatly extended suffrage, when they saw how pliant an instrument universal suffrage might become in the hands of despotism. All classes, with a few individual exceptions, came to the conclusion, that, defective as our parliamentary system might be, its results were, upon the whole, satisfactory. It was true that Sudbury, Harwich, St. Alban's, and other such places were scandals and nuisances, but it was equally true, in law and in fact, that an "Englishman's house was his castle," which was more than could be said of the house of a German or a Frenchman. It was absurd and unjust, no doubt, that Lymington, in Hampshire, a mere stagnant village, should return two members to Parliament, and that such great, wealthy, and growing cities as Manchester and Glasgow should return no more; but then it was comfortable to think that no attack could be made upon the life, limb, or property of a British subject without a remedy. It was not, theoretically, very sound that Calne should return a member, and Birkenhead none, or that a venal ten-pounder in a trumphy borough should have the privilege of a vote, while a professional man, living in lodgings or chambers in the metropolis, and paying twice the amount of the £10 rental in direct taxation, should not enjoy a similar right; but, in balancing advantages and defects, the people, though they might laugh now and then at the old patchwork Constitution of Great Britain, entertained a sincere respect for it, and were very thankful for the privilege of living under its protection. And so Parliamentary Reform went out of date as a party cry, and the most energetic reformers devoted their attention to such general reforms as Parliament could accomplish—the reform of the law, the reform of our fiscal system, and scores of less prominent, but equally important matters.

In the session of 1851, annoyed by a chance defeat, and with a view to a party triumph at a future time, the author of the Reform Act of 1832, and the author of the famous "finality" phrase, announced a new Reform Bill for the present year. It seems highly probable that the party gain to be derived from the fulfilment of the promise will be nothing, or next to nothing. It is not improbable even that damage, and not advantage, will be the result. The promise of a new Reform Bill excited no gratitude and no expectation. Nobody cared one farthing about it; and if Lord John Russell instead of introducing it on Monday last, had quietly postponed it for another twelvemonth, or to the Greek kalends, no living creature would have taken the disappointment very greatly to heart. There would have been a running fire of ill-natured commentary in and out of Parliament, but nothing more serious would have happened. The world would have wagged as merrily as before, and the Russell Administration would have died of its decrepitude, at its appointed time—neither sooner nor later—with no greater number of friends or of enemies than if its new Reform Bill had never been dreamed of.

And yet, the measure, as sketched by Lord John Russell, on Monday evening, to his very unsympathising auditory, contains many provisions for which the country might well be grateful. The enfranchisement of two such places as Birkenhead and Burnley is a tribute to the growth of trade and manufactures which is worthy of commendation. The extension of the right of voting to all persons living without the limits of boroughs, who pay direct taxes to the amount of forty shillings per annum, is surely a step in the right direction. The abolition of the property qualification, hitherto exacted from English members alone, and which was notoriously of no avail for the purposes for which it was intended, is equally entitled to respectful mention. The reconstruction of the oath, framed centuries ago, to exclude the adherents of the exiled House of Stuart, but which, in the present day, when there is no House of Stuart to trouble us, has the effect of excluding men in whom the first constituencies of the empire place their confidence, and who may be ranked among the most loyal and devoted subjects of the Crown, is also a real, a substantial, and a necessary reform. It will also be very generally admitted that there is no real necessity why a member of the Ministry, in vacating one office and accepting another, should, at the same time, vacate his seat. The new Bill, in putting an end to this inconvenience, will generally be acknowledged as useful to this extent. The other portions of the measure are of less positive value; yet it can scarcely be denied, that the men who are considered fit to serve their country in the responsible and honourable capacity of jurymen, are fit to serve it in the capacity of voters. All impartial persons will, we think, feel disposed to admit, that, in this respect, Lord John Russell has done wisely in lowering the county qualification to include this class. Whether Lord John Russell, in admitting that the original Reform Act, which requires a ten-pound qualification for voters in boroughs, had placed the suffrage rather too high, did not admit rather too much, is a different question, and one on which in default of data we do not feel disposed to hazard an opinion. Whether, in praising the intelligence of the new five-pound householders, to whom he proposes to extend the suffrage, he does not somewhat exaggerate, or paint "en couleur de rose," is another point on which it seems to us that more positive information would be desirable. But on neither point is it worth while to dwell. The Bill, as it stands at present, fresh from the mintage of its author's brain, may be a little bill, but, little as it is, a greater was not expected. Professed reformers will doubtless sneer at it; while the opposite party will find fault with it, not because it attempts little or much, but because it attempts anything, and stirs a question which, in their opinion, would have been better left alone. Yet we think that moderate men, who are not wedded to either party, and who form a reasonable estimate of the public necessities, will wish that Lord John Russell's bill may be carried without loss of time, with such amendments of detail as the majority in Parliament may see fit to engraft upon it. The fear is, that the measure may "stop the way," and impede the more important business of the Legislature. If the business is to be done, the sooner it be done the better. The circumstances of Europe and of the world are critical; and, without feeling any great enthusiasm for, or any particular hostility against, the measure itself, the country will be apt enough to grow impatient if a protracted discussion, leading to the neglect of more urgent matters, should be the result.

There is, however, a contagion of indifference as well as of enthusiasm; and we feel that in considering the new Reform Bill, we have caught the prevailing sentiment of the people. Nevertheless, we must admit, that after all there is something noble and instructive in the spectacle which England at this moment presents. While civil war is only restrained in the fairest portions of Europe by the iron grasp of a merciless military despotism, while liberty lies prostrate and bleeding, and justice is outraged every day, the great English people are freely occupied with their own business; and the first Minister of the Crown, uncoerced, even unasked, is quietly endeavouring to extend the basis of the popular liberties. This is one view of the subject which should not be lost sight of. The military tyrants of the Continent, whether friends or foes of an English alliance, will be wise if they read the lesson aright, and turn it to the proper account.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS LIBRARY.

The river front of the new Palace at Westminster may be divided into five parts: the centre portion on the principal floor consisting of committee and conference-rooms; the parts south and north of the centre being occupied with the libraries of the Houses of Lords and Commons, and the extreme end portions of the building containing the official residences of the Speaker, Black Rod, &c.

Our illustration this week shows one of the four spacious apartments, communicating with each other, set apart for the Library of the House of Lords. The Library is entered from a corridor running the whole length of the building, and has communication through the Bishops' corridor with the House of Lords. Two of the four rooms are of equal size, but the others considerably less, though all are of uniform height. In arrangement of oak-paneling, bookshelves, &c., they all correspond; and from their fine proportions, the peculiarly elegant design, and beautiful character of the workmanship of the carved woodwork, the *tout ensemble* is rich, sumptuous, and palatial in the highest degree. Our illustration conveys a faithful idea of the style of decoration of these superb apartments; but the painter's skill is needed to convey the rich brown tints of the carved oak, the gilded and various coloured bindings of the books, the rubricated and beautifully painted ceiling, and the varied hues of the armorial bearings in the panels above the bookshelves, in order to make the picture complete in its *realisance*. The escutcheons just referred to represent the armorial bearings of the Lord Chief Justices of England from the earliest period.

The carved-work of small shields and oak foliage at the windows is particularly beautiful, as are also the panels above the doors, in the central one of which a clock is introduced. The spandrels in the doorway, of stone, are also of great delicacy of workmanship. The fireplaces are lined with Minton's encaustic tiles, and the grates are thoroughly medieval in appearance, of admirably wrought iron and brass work. The shelves for books recede somewhat from the general front of the paneling, and by this arrangement great picturesqueness is obtained. The furniture is of oak, to correspond with the fittings in the room, and is covered with morocco leather. The carpet is of very fine design—in general style similar to one which hung in the Medieval Court in the Great Exhibition of Industry of all Nations. The Library is lighted in the evening by lamps placed on the centre tables, but which are omitted in our Engraving.

We should mention that the whole of the painted and heraldic decorations are due to the taste and skill of Messrs. Crace.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

BRIBERY AT ELECTIONS.

Lord BROUGHAM hoped the Government would extend the Law of Evidence Amendment Bill so as to provide for the personal examination of members of Parliament, with a view to the prosecution and punishment of bribery. The Marquis of LANSDOWNE said the subject had been long under the consideration of the Government. In the Lower House on that very night notice of a bill on the subject would be given.

COMMON LAW PROCEDURE AMENDMENT BILL.

The Lord CHANCELLOR moved the second reading of this bill. The measure provides that when a writ is issued it should contain an endorsement of the facts, precisely stating what was claimed for debt and costs. Technical and formal objections were in general to be abolished. If the defendant did not defend, judgment would be signed in eight days, and the costs would be reduced to one-fourth what they at present amount to. The bill would also abolish all cases of special demurrer. It required proceedings to be taken on the first stage, or not at all, and allowed no writ of error to be brought unless the objection had been made in the court below.

Lord LYNCHURST did not object to the second reading of the bill, as all the objections to it related to matters of detail and would be best discussed in committee. He could not, however, understand, as the machinery of the county courts had worked so well, why the same machinery should not be applied to the superior courts in all cases not exceeding £200 or £300.

Lord BROUGHAM thought the best course would be to read the bill at once a second time. He also agreed in the suggestion of Lord Lynchurst as to the application of the county court machinery to the superior courts.

The Lord CHANCELLOR remarked, that, before he acceded to Lord Lynchurst's suggestion, he should be glad to have his positive assurance that the county court machinery was adapted to the superior courts.

The bill was then read a second time.

FOREIGN REFUGEES.

In reply to a question from Lord Strangford, Earl GRANVILLE said, that Lord Palmerston had not sent any reply to the remonstrances of foreign powers with respect to the reception given by this country to political refugees. Had the noble Lord remained in office, he had no doubt but he would have sent the same reply as he (Earl Granville) had done.

After a short conversation on the Patent Law Amendment Bill of last session, their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

The Sheriffs of London, Messrs. Cotterell and Swift, appeared at the bar, and presented two petitions from the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of London, in favour of the City Improvements Bill.

On the motion of Mr. W. PATTEN, Mr. W. Patten, Mr. Ord, Sir R. Ferguson, Mr. Greene, Sir J. Y. Buller, Mr. Aglionby, Captain Jones, Mr. H. Drummond, Mr. Wrightson, Mr. E. Denison, and Mr. Henley were nominated the committee on standing orders.

On the motion of the same hon. member, Sir R. Ferguson, Mr. E. Denison, Mr. Sotherton, Sir J. Y. Buller, and the chairman of the committee on standing orders, were nominated the committee of selection.

RE-DIVISION OF PARISHES.

The Marquis of BLANDFORD gave notice of a bill for a redivision of parishes, with a view to the better apportionment of ecclesiastical duty.

SIR HARRY SMITH.

Lord J. RUSSELL, in reply to Mr. J. Williams as to the recall of Sir H. Smith, intimated that the same rule of submitting for her Majesty's approval every dispatch from the Colonial Office did not apply as in the case of the Foreign Office. The dispatch recalling Sir H. Smith had been submitted to and received the sanction of the whole of the Cabinet.

THE "AMAZON."

In reply to a question from Lord Nass, Sir F. Baring said, if a motion for that purpose were made he would not object to lay on the table all the correspondence which had taken place with the Admiralty on the subject of the loss of the *Amazon*.

THE LIGHTING OF THE HOUSE.

Lord J. MANNERS begged to ask the noble Lord (Lord Seymour) whether, within the last two months, he had received from Dr. Reid an intimation of the insecure state of the lamps which then hung over their heads? (Laughter.) [It may be mentioned that during the past hour the House had exhibited no little alarm at the falling of pieces of glass about them from the lamps suspended from the ceiling. In several directions the glass funnels gave way, and here and there large pieces fell upon the floor. The Sergeant-at-Arms narrowly escaped one of these missiles from a lamp directly over his head, but he valiantly kept his official chair, and with uncovered head defied the storm. Many hon. members more circumspectly put their hats on.]

Lord SEYMOUR, in reply, said "that he" had received no such intimation from Dr. Reid; and repeated the statement of the clerk of the works and the workmen employed as to the safety of the lamps.

Lord J. MANNERS said he believed that Dr. Reid had expressed an opinion on the subject, and it was quite essential that something should be done in the matter. (Hear, hear.)

The subject then dropped.

MR. FEARGUS O'CONNOR.

The SPEAKER acquainted the House with the fact that he had received a letter from the Police-court in Bow-street—(Laughter)—to this effect:—

"Sir,—I understand it is the practice to communicate to the House the arrest of any of its members: I beg leave, therefore, to report to you that Mr. Feargus O'Connor having assaulted a police-constable, I have committed him to prison for seven days, under the provisions of the law.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant, THOMAS HENRY."

This intelligence occasioned considerable laughter.

THE GOVERNMENT MEASURE OF PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

Lord J. RUSSELL rose amidst a very crowded House to move for leave to bring in a bill to extend the right of voting for members of Parliament and to amend the laws relating to representation. The noble Lord commenced by urging the circumstance of the tranquillity of the country as rendering the present session peculiarly fitted to the consideration of the subject. He denied that it was merely on the spur of the moment, when pressed last year, that he resolved to propose a measure of parliamentary reform. In 1848, while opposing Mr. Hume's motion, he stated that the period was probably approaching when it would be well to consider whether some extension of the suffrage was not necessary. The question was discussed in the cabinet in 1849 and 1850, but on both occasions there were reasons sufficient for its postponement. But while admitting the necessity for an extension of the suffrage, he held the claim ultimately which asserted the right of every individual to the franchise. He then drew an historical retrospect of all the measures of reform proposed, from that of Mr. Pitt in 1781 down to the bill of 1832, the main provisions of which, so far as they limited the franchise in counties and boroughs, he called attention to, and urged, that, if the counties and large towns only returned members, it would be impossible to say that we had a fair system of representation. Where representation depended solely on numbers, as in the United States, it had been found necessary to arm the executive in the person of the President with powers far beyond those held by the Sovereign of this country, viz. to appoint his Ministry without any reference to the

opinions of Congress. It would be unwise, and destroy the balance of the constitution, if in this country the representation were confined to the counties and large towns. He saw no reason, nor was it intended to proceed arbitrarily to absolute disfranchisement in the case of the small boroughs. It was only proposed to disfranchise those boroughs where there was proof of corruption, to be ascertained by means of a commission similar to that appointed in the St. Alban's case. It would be for the House to consider whether the hiatus in the representation occasioned by the disfranchisement of boroughs under such circumstances should not be filled up as he now proposed in the case of Sudbury and St. Alban's, by giving the vacant seats to populous and growing towns like Birkenhead and Burnley. Holding that Parliament was correct in 1831 in placing the right of voting on household suffrage at a £10 qualification, he thought the time had come when it might safely be lowered. He proposed to substitute a rated value of £5 in boroughs for the existing £10 franchise. In point of numbers, he calculated that the proportion of occupiers between £5 and £10, as compared with those of £10 and upwards, was about six to ten. The proposed change, therefore, would add materially to the number of voters in boroughs. He proposed to maintain the distinction between the county and the borough franchise established by the Reform Act. The 40s. freehold franchise would not be disturbed; but, with regard to the occupation franchise, he thought the same qualification which entitled a man to sit on juries might safely be taken as that which should give the right to vote for members of Parliament; and, accordingly, he proposed to reduce the occupation franchise in counties from £50 to £20 rated value; and with regard to copyhold tenures and long leaseholds, the qualification was to be reduced from £10 to £5. Besides these, it was proposed to give a new right of voting indiscriminately to persons residing either in counties or boroughs—those residing without the limits of the borough to vote for the county, and those within, for the borough—that was, the right for all persons to vote who paid direct taxes in the shape of assessed or income-tax to the amount of 40s. a year. Such new qualification, however, was not to extend to persons who paid merely for licenses. This would obviate the objection frequently and reasonably urged, that while persons holding freehold or leasehold property, and even mere occupying tenants, had the right of voting, a large class of educated men, possessing property and every qualification for the exercise of the franchise, had not that right. With regard to the small boroughs, he thought on principle they should be maintained. He did not find, although there was now an outcry against them, that Mr. Pitt, Mr. Fox, or any other statesman who had propounded or supported plans of parliamentary reform, had ever suggested the total destruction of the small boroughs. It was a mistake to suppose that all these boroughs were infected with corruption more than some of the larger constituencies. In many of them elections were conducted with purity; but as with regard to some it was said with truth that the influence of property controlled the elections, and as it was desirable that that reproach should be removed, he proposed where such influence prevailed to extend the constituencies by adding neighbouring towns in the same or the adjoining county. In bringing forward the Reform Act he had stated that no electoral borough under that act would have less than 300 voters; and while that was the case generally, it appeared that 14 had less than that number, about 30 more had less than 400, and several others less than 500. He proposed to abide by that standard of 500, and to add places in the neighbourhood to those which had less in order to make up that number. The number of boroughs to which this principle would apply in England and Wales would be 67. These small boroughs (except some few in Yorkshire), being in the southern and western counties, were principally in agricultural districts; and the places it was proposed to add to them being of the same character, of course the balance of interests established by the Reform Bill would be preserved, the object being not to interfere with those interests, but to leave them as they were. Last year he had intimated that he attached no value to the property qualification of members, and that he was willing to see it abolished, and, acting on that opinion, a clause would be introduced into the bill repealing all the acts from Anne downwards to that subject, so that in future the English and Irish members would in this respect be placed on a footing of equality with those of Scotland. Another subject he proposed to deal with in the bill—after the necessary resolution of the House on the subject should be taken—was the oaths taken by members. He saw no advantage in maintaining invidious distinctions between the oaths of Protestants and Roman Catholics, nor in calling upon members to abjure James II. and his descendants. In the new form of oath he proposed the words "on the true faith of a Christian" should be omitted—words which had never been introduced to confirm the right of sitting in Parliament to Christians, but for a totally different purpose. The oath he would suggest was a simple one, which all members could take alike, merely binding them to allegiance to the throne and fidelity to the succession. There would be one other clause in the bill, in regard to members accepting offices under the Crown. At present, not only when the member first accepted office, but when he changed office, his seat became vacant. He did not propose to alter the law as regarded members accepting office for the first time, but he thought that when a member who held one office merely changed to another under the same Administration, there should be no necessity for a re-election; and to this extent he proposed to effect an alteration. With regard to Ireland, it was not proposed to make any alteration in respect to the county franchise. But, with regard to the city and borough franchise, the qualification would be reduced from £5 to £3, it having been found that that £5 franchise greatly restricted the number of voters in Ireland. The very small number on the lists of some of the boroughs had disposed Government to reconsider the question placed before the House when the Irish bill was before it; viz. whether, with regard to some of those boroughs, it was not advisable to add the neighbouring towns, and thereby secure larger and more independent constituencies. This question of the franchise settled, Parliament would be in a position to consider one from which it was not alien, viz. the education of the people. In another session, he trusted they would be prepared to concur in a general measure on that subject.

Mr. HUME complained of the omissions of the noble Lord's scheme, especially as to the ballot and triennial parliaments. As far as the bill went, he approved of it.

After some observations from Sir J. Walsh and Sir R. Inglis against the measure, and Mr. H. Berkeley and Mr. P. Howard in favour of it,

Mr. BAILEY observed, that, judging by the intelligence displayed by the ratepayers between £5 and £10 a year in local matters, he believed there was no danger of the electoral body being deteriorated in character by the noble Lord's plan; but he regretted that care was not taken to prevent the exercise of coercive influence by large manufacturers and others, who had many of these smaller voters dependent upon them, by introducing the protection of the ballot. He saw no reasons for lowering the county franchise to £20 which did not apply with equal force in favour of carrying the reduction to £10. What reason was there for saying that the man who occupied a £10 house in the country was not as intelligent and as respectable as the man who lived in a £5 house in a borough? The noble Lord had talked about maintaining the balance of interests; but the preponderance of the representatives of the land and opponents of the settled question of Free Trade, which he supposed he meant, was not a balance of interests, but merely a dead lock to the Government. He wanted to know why such places as Thetford and Harwich should send two members, while such boroughs as Manchester, Finsbury, or Westminster sent no more? A settlement on such a basis could not be permanent, nor ought it to be so. He urged the noble Lord to consider between this and the next stage of the bill the propriety of withdrawing the members from those small boroughs he proposed to enlarge, and apportioning them to the large constituencies, or to new constituencies raised from more populous districts. On the subject of oaths, he thought it would be far better to abolish them altogether, substituting, if necessary, a simple declaration.

Mr. H. BAILEY taunted Lord John with not providing for the repeal of the Septennial Act, if he meant to make the measure a democratic one; and expressed his decided opinion that no measure of reform would give satisfaction which did not propose to shorten the duration of Parliament.

In the discussion which followed, Mr. Roche, Mr. Newdegate, Mr. Trelawny, Sir J. Walmesley, Lord H. Vane, Mr. Anstey, Sir J. Tyrrell, Colonel Sibthorpe, and Mr. W. O. Stanley took part.

Lord J. RUSSELL having stated that the second reading would be taken on Friday next,

Mr. DISRAELI demanded a longer interval for reflection, the more especially as it was understood the bill would not be on the table until Thursday. Judging from the Minister's statement, he did not think the project was calculated to disturb the existing balance of representation to any great extent; therefore his mind was much relieved; at the same time he disputed Mr. Bright's principle, that because Thetford, with a very small population, returned two members, therefore Manchester should return more than two. The inference was the other way—that the smaller towns should not return so many. He reserved to himself the right to consider whether it was wise to deal with the question at the present time; and, if so, whether the measure proposed was calculated to be efficient for its alleged purpose.

Sir G. GREY and Sir B. HALL spoke against delay; the latter, however, expressing himself confident that the noble Lord's bill would make the county constituency more corrupt than it was at present, unless the franchise was protected by the ballot. The principle of the present bill ought to be like that of 1831—enacting disfranchisement on the one hand, and enfranchisement on the other. He thought the same qualification should obtain in the counties as in the boroughs.

Lord DUDLEY STUART considered the measure inadequate to meet the requirements of the country, but hoped it would be accepted as an instalment.

After a few words from Mr. M. O'CONNELL and Captain HAARIS, in reply to a question from Mr. E. B. Roche, Lord J. RUSSELL stated that a separate bill for regulating the franchise in Ireland would be introduced on Friday next.

Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

Lord J. RUSSELL obtained leave to bring in a bill for more effectual inquiry into the existence of corrupt practices at elections for members to serve in Parliament.—Adjourned at half-past ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN THE HOUSE.

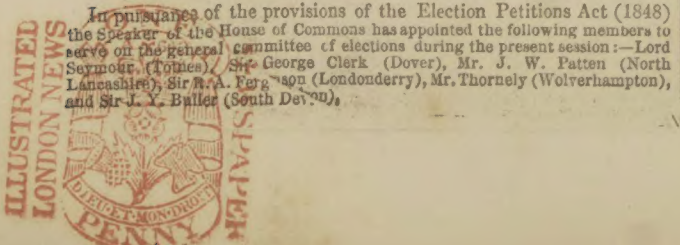
Lord LYNCHURST laid a bill upon the table, the object of which was to facilitate the dispatch of public business, by enabling either House of Parliament to proceed with any measure which had been introduced in the previous session.

The Earl of DERRY entirely approved of the object of the bill. He had himself, on a former occasion, introduced a similar measure, which passed their Lordships' House, but which was dropped in the House of Commons.

After a short conversation, the bill was read a first time.

COUNTY COURTS EXTENSION.

Lord BROUGHAM having intimated his intention before long of bringing in the County Courts Extension Bill, which had passed both Houses last session,



and a fallacious labour. All human institutions are imperfect—all human power is defective. It becomes a necessity and a duty to acknowledge that weakness

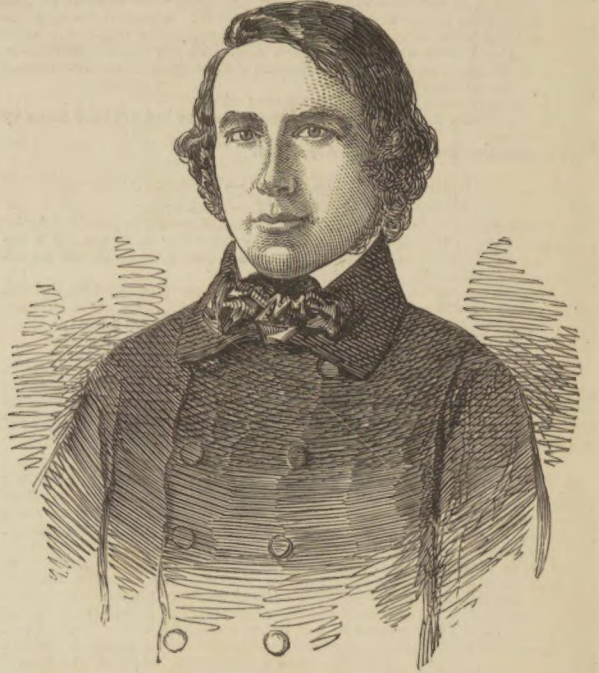


SITTING OF THE FRENCH ACADEMY, AND RECEPTION OF M. DE MONTALEMBERT.

all things, and to protect nations from it by efficacious guarantees. But, that fact and that principle even admitted, the character and general effect of the institutions which had prevailed over the national influences exist notwithstanding. Though the whole of the errors of Royalty and of the church in France should be pointed out and noted, the history of France will not be

changed. The Church and Royalty still remain the tutelary influence, which has protected and directed society in France through all its glorious development. When the Revolution broke out in 1789, Royalty in our country was represented by a Prince of excellent qualities, though none of them very superior.

The Church in France, at the same period, could not boast, it is true, of that distinguished piety and genius which had constituted its power and its glory during a long period of time. The effect of the ideas and principles of the age had penetrated into its ranks, much less deeply, however, than has been frequently asserted. The French Church has two replies to make to those who too severely reproach it with a laxity of morals and a mundane spirit. It supported unexampled adversity with heroic courage and devotedness; and as soon as the ground became somewhat firm it rose again from its ruins, and in a few years it has restored to Christian France a clergy worthy of its respect. A church which gave for a quarter of a century so many pious martyrs to the scaffold, and so many holy priests to the altar, was certainly not infected with an incurable disease, nor had it fallen into certain decay. I do not wish to disclose the entire truth. I have no desire to recal hideous and afflicting recollections. I wish not to excite the bursts of indignation and of pity, which, thank Heaven, are always called forth by the simple mention of the uncontrolled passion for crime and the last extremity of misfortune. I shall only allude to one single great fact of our past revolution in its calm and naked simplicity. On one side I place all the services which the Christian Church and the Monarchy rendered to France during fifteen centuries, and what King Louis XVI. and the Church of France really were at the commencement of our revolution. I place, on the other hand, what the revolution has made of the Monarchy, of the Church, of Louis XVI., and of the Christian clergy. Who can



M. DE MONTALEMBERT.

hold the scales, and not acknowledge with profound grief, that, treating as it has treated the Monarchy and the Church, Louis XVI. and the Christian clergy, the revolution trampled under foot justice and common sense, moral and political right; that it was at the same time ungrateful and iniquitous; that it violated and outraged the eternal laws of God and the vital conditions of society, and all the noble instincts of that very people in whose name it was accomplished? The lesson derived from what is passing before our eyes, our own experience, the hand of God made manifest in the destinies and the actions of men—your hon. predecessor, sir, heard and comprehended them; and, therefore, he wrote the 'History of Louis XVI.,' and he died a Christian."

LAUNCH OF THE "AMAZONAS" STEAM FRIGATE.

On Thursday week this fine frigate was launched from the building-yard of Messrs. Money Wigram and Sons, at Blackwall, for the Peruvian Government. Her principal dimensions are:—

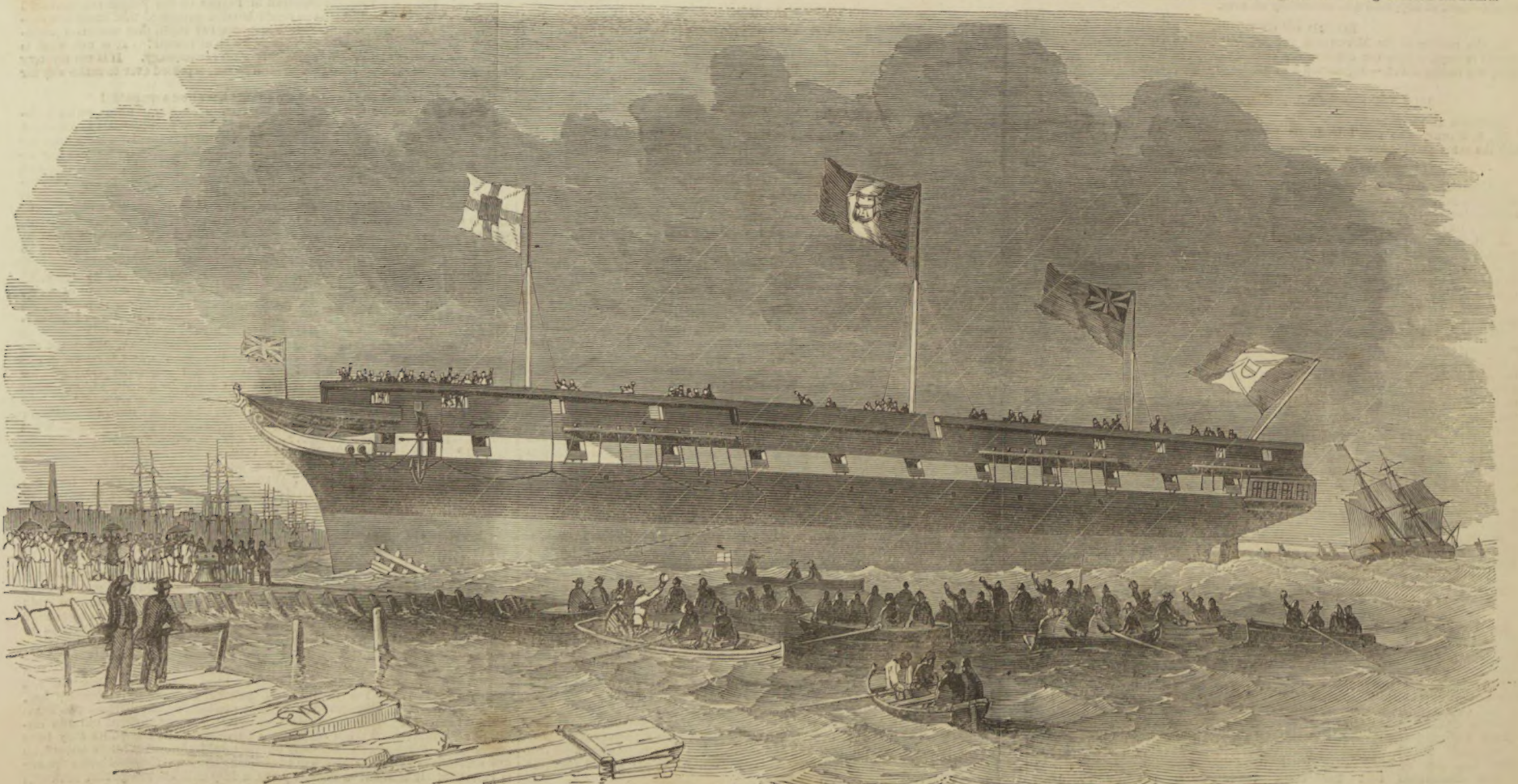
			Ft.	In.
Length between perpendiculars	..	..	197	0
Breadth extreme	..	..	43	0
Depth in hold to spar-deck	..	..	27	6
Burthen in tons, 1679 42-94.				
Length of gun-deck	..	..	193	6
Height between decks	..	..	7	8
Port-sill from load water-line	..	..	8	0

The cabins are arranged so as to give excellent accommodation to a her officers, and are built of handsome mahogany and wainscot oak French-polished. The magazines, store-rooms, &c. are arranged similar to a frigate of her class in the Royal navy.

The *Amazonas* is to be fitted with a pair of engines of 300 horses collective power, with tubular boilers made by Messrs. Penn and Son, of Greenwich, on their much-approved trunk principle, which was so much admired, and obtained a prize at the Great Exhibition. The screw will be of gun-metal, with apparatus to raise it on to the deck in case of need.

The vessel is built of oak for the timbers, with East India teak for the planking, both inside and out.

She is to be supplied with a complete outfit of masts, yards, sails, anchor and chains, boats, and spare stores of suitable dimensions for a vessel of her class. She has been nine months building, and is to be finished in three months, whilst the engines are being erected on board.



LAUNCH OF THE "AMAZONAS" PERUVIAN STEAM FRIGATE, AT BLACKWALL YARD.



ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE QUEEN OF SPAIN IN THE LONG GALLERY OF THE ROYAL PALACE, MADRID.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BARNES, SURREY.

This small and picturesque Church, one of the most ancient ecclesiastical edifices in the neighbourhood of the metropolis, supposed to have been erected about the close of the twelfth century, was re-opened on Sunday week, after undergoing extensive repairs and enlargement.

The accompanying View shows the interior of the south aisle and chancel restored to their former primitive character. During the progress of the works there was discovered a triple lancet window in the east wall of the chancel, it having been filled up and plastered over. The centre opening had not been originally of the length of the two side ones, but has now been cut down to the level of the others. It was also discovered that the roof, as seen in the View, west of the chancel arch, was constructed in a semi-hexagonal form of oak timbers, moulded on the inner edges, but which was wholly obscured by plastering and whitewashing. This roof has been repaired, scraped, and varnished, and with much care restored, together with other features of the ancient part of the fabric.

The northern aisle is entirely new and capacious, and has a gallery over the same, extending also over the west end of the Church. The style here adopted is the perpendicular, as being in accordance with the date of the old west tower; the discovery of the lancet windows not having been made until the works were too much advanced to admit of following out that style. This will account for the anomalous effect of the eastern elevation, as presenting the two styles in the same frontage.

The enlargement and restoration of the Church has been effected by private subscription—from the design and under the superintendence of Mr. George Legg, architect, Queen-square, Bloomsbury. The triple window of the chancel has been filled with rich stained glass by Mr. Wailes, and other windows by Mr. Powell, from the contributions of friends.

The Lord Bishop of London preached in the morning, from the



INTERIOR OF BARNES CHURCH, RESTORED.

text, Exodus xx. 24: "In all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee." And the sermon in the afternoon was preached by the rector, from Psalm 122, verse 1: "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord." Collections were made at both services.

A View of the exterior of this interesting Church appeared, with an historical account of the edifice, in No. 51 of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

THE HON. JOHN MORPHETT,
FIRST SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The meeting of the first Legislative Assembly marks an epoch in the history of the important colony of South Australia; and the election of Mr. John Morphett to be the first Speaker is an event of no small significance in regard to the state and prospects of the settlement.



THE HON. JOHN MORPHETT, FIRST SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

John Morphett derives his descent from a Kentish family, and was born in England in 1809. Although of an energetic temperament, it became evident, as life advanced, that the warmer climates with which travelling had made him acquainted best suited his constitution, and he fortunately selected for his home that region which has proved to possess the finest climate in the world. He had, indeed, been attracted

towards the settlement by the lively interest which he, as well as several of his friends and relatives, took in the system on which the colony was founded, and which has rendered it the best imitation of English society yet offered in any of our colonies—sound English society, with an active prosperity in every class, and a lovely climate over all. The first Governor and his party arrived on the shores of Gulf St. Vincent in February, 1836, and among that party was Mr. Morphett. His intelligence contributed greatly to the example which the educated settlers gave to their companions of assiduity and judgment in forming the settlement; his enterprise set the example which has encouraged South Australia to supply England with wool of the finest quality, and with wheat unsurpassed in the British market; while its products already rival the south of Europe in wines and fruits, rendering it a kind of England on the Mediterranean. Selected as a non-official member of the Governor's Council, he distinguished himself for his sagacity and his independent devotion to the interests of the colony.

On the carrying out of the Constitution recently granted under Earl Grey's act—which makes the Assembly a House of Lords and a House of Commons sitting in one chamber—Mr. Morphett was offered a seat by more than one district of the colony; but he was nominated by the Governor as a Crown member. It was to have been anticipated that the old disputes between the Government and the colonists would have made the majority in the Assembly choose a Speaker from among the elected members; but when the day came for the choice, on the 20th of August last, it fell unanimously on the Hon. John Morphett. This act of the legislative body not only proves the personal and well-merited confidence in Mr. Morphett's character, but also it shows that the breach between the colonists and the Government has been removed, and it



TRIUMPHAL ARCH ERECTED AT HOBART TOWN, TO WELCOME THE GOVERNOR OF VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

signifies that henceforward parties are prepared to act together for the welfare of their country.

Mr. Speaker Morphet is a strong advocate for the connexion with the mother country, which many able men in the Australian colonies are doing their best to weaken. One source of discontent is the non-recognition in this country of colonial station, official or social. The loyal John Morphet himself, for instance, would here be stripped of his "Honourable" style and title, if he visited his native land. It is not only individuals that feel this disparagement; whole communities feel insulted by the slight to their representatives. How easily might a little just courtesy and attention correct that feeling and cement the connexion by fostering the natural affection and pride which all colonists are disposed to feel in their parent land! No step could more strengthen that affectionate pride than the crowning of colonial worth and dignity by their full recognition in the British metropolis.

TRIUMPHAL ARCH AT HOBART TOWN.

AMIDST the discontent which, unfortunately, so often characterises Intelligence from our colonies, it is gratifying to record a very marked testimony to the popularity of the Governor of Van Diemen's Land, which manifested itself at Hobart Town on the 26th of August last, in the erection of an Arch of Welcome to his Excellency—"a welcome," says the *Hobart Town Advertiser*, "unprecedented in the Australian colonies." The streets were filled with spectators; and foremost among the commemorations in Elizabeth-street was the Triumphal Arch we have engraved—a very effective structure, adorned with emblems of the various products of the colony. The design, by James Thomson, consisted of a centre arch, flanked by two smaller arches, externally filled in with evergreens, and the interior decorated with flags of all nations. The side supports of the central arch were the jaws of a whale, with bales of wool for bases, emblematic of the staple resources of the colony. On the top of the arch were sheaves of wheat, a third staple of the island; while the Royal standard of Great Britain floated over the whole. The smaller arches were surmounted with bales of wool, and the French and American flags. On the centre arch was the word "Welcome," surrounded with roses, and underneath, on a Roman banner, were emblazoned the arms of his Excellency, and the legend, "Presented to his Excellency Sir W. T. Denison, with an address, by the inhabitants of Hobart Town, August 25, 1851." On the centre of the small arches was "V. R." in variegated letters.

The Governor entered the town in grand procession, and on his arrival at the Arch was presented with an address of congratulation, to which his Excellency replied.

SPAIN.—THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF QUEEN ISABELLA.

THE attempt on the life of the Queen of Spain, which we briefly noticed by telegraphic dispatch last week, as having been made on the 2d instant, has not proved so dangerous as was at first apprehended. The 2d was the day fixed for a grand State procession of the Queen and Court from the Palace to the Church of "Our Lady of Atocha," at the further end of Madrid, for the purpose of her Majesty returning thanks in public for her safe delivery, on the recent occasion of the birth of a Royal Princess. The assassin was an old friar, sixty-three years of age, named Martin Merino y Gomez, of bad moral character, who had at his own request been secularised so far back as the year 1821, and who was well-known as an advocate of extreme Revolutionary doctrines. He was a native of Arnedo, province of Logrono, in the Rioja, and was cousin to the friar of the same name who was infamously conspicuous in the late civil wars in Spain for his sanguinary ferocity.

The hour for the commencement of the Royal festival (*Festas Reales*), as the pageant was denominated, had been announced in the *Official Gazette* to be half-past one o'clock p.m. on the 2d inst.; and, as the day was very fine and the sun shining brightly, almost all the population of Madrid was out of doors. The streets through which the Royal procession was to pass were lined with troops, and the houses throughout the line were dressed out with the gayest coloured silks, velvets, &c. The balconies were thronged with spectators, an immense crowd assembled at all points long before the appointed time, and people waited with great patience till about three p.m., when the troops began to move off and take up different positions, and a rumour was soon spread that something had occurred at the palace, and that the visit to Atocha would not take place. The news of the treasonable attempt soon spread through the city, and the indignation of all against the cowardly assassin was violent in the extreme.

The numerous accounts of the affair vary in some slight particulars. The Queen, who had not made her appearance abroad since the birth of the Princess, was to leave the palace shortly before two o'clock, accompanied by the King and the high functionaries of the court. Her Majesty had just heard the mass of child-birth (*misa de perida*) in the Chapel Royal, and was proceeding along the gallery towards the great staircase, when her progress was arrested by Merino, who, being dressed in clerical attire, and being, as was supposed, about to present a memorial, met with no obstacle from those around. He immediately struck at the Queen with a dagger, which grazed her arm and entered her right side, penetrating through several folds of her mantle of velvet and gold, and cutting through the stays, the whalebone of which diminished the effect of the blow, which it is now understood has not injured any vital organ. The fear was that the liver had been wounded. The assassin at the moment of striking exclaimed, "Toma, ya tienes bastante" (Take it: you have now got enough). The Queen's first thought was for her child. "Mi niña!" she exclaimed: "Que chulada a Isabel!" (My child!—let them take care of Isabel!) There was a moment of confusion. The King-Cousor drew his sword. One of the Royal halberds struck down the assassin, who let fall the dagger, and was secured by the Duke of Tanames and other members of the Royal suite. The Queen leant against the wall of the gallery, her hand pressed against her side, which was covered with blood. The King and the other members of the Royal family rushed to support her. She was instantly carried to her apartment, when she swooned, and remained in the faint for a quarter of an hour. The whole scene passed very quickly.

Another account says that the moment when the Queen extended her hand towards Merino, meaning to receive the petition that she supposed he wished to present, he seized her hand with his left, and stabbed her with his right. The Queen instantly uttered a shriek so piercing that it was heard from one extremity of the palace to the other. The poignard had been so vigorously and surely directed that it went through the thick velvet dress, the under garments, and the stays, and entered the body of the Queen above the groin, and beneath the last rib on the right side. Count Pino-Ile-moso, who rushed up in time to parry a second blow, had his fingers almost cut off. The Princess Royal was between her Majesty and the King, carried on a cushion by the Marchioness de Povar. On hearing the Queen's cry, this lady's nerves failed her, the Royal infant slipped off the cushion and fell to the ground! The nurse who followed was pressed upon by the crowd, and sank down in a corner in a fainting fit. When the Queen, after being carried to her room, asked for her child, it is said that nobody about her knew where the infant was, and that it was afterwards found in the gallery in the arms of a halberdier, who had picked the poor thing up. The public mind in Madrid is in the greatest alarm. The extraordinary shriek of the Queen, which was heard by so many, led at first to the belief that there must be some organic injury; but the latest accounts represent her Majesty as nearly recovered, the wound being healed, and the fever consequent on the shock abated. On recovering from her swoon, the Queen said, "Que no lo maten por mi causa" (Do not let them kill him on my account).

During the fever which supervened the Queen appeared to suffer mentally from the impression of fright and terror which the ferocious countenance of Merino at the moment of the attack produced upon her. On the morning of Thursday (the 5th), when the fever began to abate, a smile for the first time was perceptible on the lips of her Majesty. She then took in her arms the Princess Royal, and fondly embraced her.

The King, on whom the scene witnessed on the 2d had caused a strong effect, was bed on the 5th. The Queen Mother Maria Christina remained by the bedside of her daughter until she was out of danger.

The weapon with which the wound was inflicted was a poignard of Albacete manufacture, with white horn handle and iron sheath. Albacete is the Sheffield of Spain. The knife made there is the national weapon, which Spaniards know how to use with fatal precision. The manufacturers there have worked for many centuries upon the same pattern, originally taken from the Moors. They often scratch rudely in Arabic characters on the blade, without in the least understanding its meaning, the following motto, "With the help of Allah, I hope to kill my enemy."

The Ministers were all at the church of Atocha, waiting the arrival of their Majesties and the Royal family, when the event happened; but they proceeded to the palace as soon as they received information of it, and held a council in the Foreign-office (which is in the palace), where they passed the night. The President of the Council and Minister of Justice interrogated the would-be regicide previous to sending him off to the Saladero prison. The news of the attempt was despatched by telegraph immediately to all parts of the country, in order to prevent erroneous and mischievous reports from being circulated. The whole diplomatic corps, grandees, senators, and deputies, judges, generals, and, in short, all the notabilities of Madrid, immediately proceeded to the palace to inquire after her Majesty; and, during the two or three subsequent days, addresses of condolence, expressing indignation at the cowardly attempt against the Queen's life, were presented by the Chambers of Peers and of Deputies, the permanent deputations of grandees, the corporation of Madrid, the clergy, &c.

Merino was a man of tall stature and dark complexion, bald, and with some grey hairs. There was nothing remarkable in his physiognomy. He looked eight or nine years younger than he really was. On being taken to the prison of Saladero he sat down with a brutal indifference near a stove, and with great coolness asked if the Queen was dead; and when told she was not, he expressed surprise, and said he had hit her hard enough. A great number of personages went to the prison to see him; among them the Archbishop of Toledo, whom he treated with the greatest disdain. The Abbé de la Granja called him an unworthy priest, and he replied in insulting terms. He was also very abusive to others, but his general manner was that of a cold cynical sneer. There are very contradictory accounts about him. The *Espania* says that he was always of ultra-Revolutionary ideas, and was in a conspiracy against the life of Ferdinand

VII., and emigrated in 1823; while the *Gaceta Militar* describes him as a Carlist, saying that he emigrated as an anti-liberal from 1820 to 1823; that he served as a captain in the Carlist army during the civil war, and came in under the convention of Bergara. He had, it was said, been acting at Madrid for some time as assistant-curate, in the parishes of San Sebastian and San Milan. It is added that he was engaged in an attempt against the life of Queen Christina during her regency, but had failed in an opportunity for carrying it out.

The *Assemble Nationale* denies that Merino was a carate in the discharge of active duties as a priest. "He belongs," says this journal, "to the category of ecclesiastics who were admitted into orders at a period which coincides with the invasion of 1808, when several ecclesiastics were violently thrown out of their course, and obliged to return to the life of laymen, and even to become soldiers; as, for instance, the notorious Merino, the namesake of the wretch who has just been guilty of so great a crime. It so happened that some of these displaced ecclesiastics became embroiled in the strangest manner. Attachment to the Catholic faith, devotion to the country, menaced in the way it was, became confounded with the philosophical and revolutionary doctrines that have worked their way into Spain. Martin Merino appears to have been one of those in whose minds revolutionary doctrines ultimately gained the ascendancy over Christian faith. For a long time he has only been a priest in name. In 1822, yielding to demagogical doctrines, he became compromised in a design to assassinate Ferdinand, and was arrested and thrown into prison."

The following particulars of the wretched man's career are collected from various sources:—He had been in the early part of his life a Franciscan friar of the reformed order of St. Diego. The poverty of his order and the restraints of the cloister were not, however, to his taste, and in 1821 he demanded and obtained the privilege of secularisation. It is stated that at that period he gave repeated proofs of political fanaticism; was an *exaltado*; and it is added that in that epoch of great political excitement in Spain he went so far as to present himself before Ferdinand, a pistol in one hand, and the Constituent in the other. When the Duke d'Angoulême entered Spain in 1823, Merino emigrated to France, where after some time he succeeded in obtaining employment as an ecclesiastic in a country parish, and occupied his leisure hours in giving lessons in Spanish. It was remarked that he soon acquired a sum of money much more considerable than he could have earned in the exercise of a legitimate occupation. Merino did not avail himself of the amnesty of the Queen Regent in 1832; he did not return to Spain until 1841. Shortly afterwards he was appointed chaplain in the parish of San Sebastian, in Madrid, and was transferred to that of San Milan in 1844. His conduct during a portion of that period was not exemplary. The funds he had acquired in France he lent at an exorbitant rate of interest to the destitute friars; and the interest he required was always in proportion to the wants of the applicants, whose miserable pittance, as compensation for what they had lost, was badly and irregularly paid by the Government. His usurious practices drew on him the censure of his superiors, and he was removed to another parish. In his character he was morose, unsocial, intolerant, irritable, a lover of dispute, and violent. His erudition was principally derived from the works of the French philosophers of the eighteenth century; and his ideas of morality were much of the same kind as those of the poor ecclesiastics in France who have recently adopted Socialist principles. All those qualities combined deprived him of sympathy with any of those who happened to come into contact with him. For the last two or three years Merino was a daily frequenter of the reading-room in Madrid known as the Gabinete de lectura de San Felipe, where he used to remain nearly the whole of the day poring over the French newspapers. His manner since the *coup d'état* in Paris of the 2d of December was particularly remarked by those who were in the habit of going to the same place. His aspect was of a more forbidding cast. He seldom spoke to any one, though he often muttered imprecations to himself; and the words that occasionally escaped him gave indications of a mind that was brooding over some criminal project.

The assassin was put to death on Saturday last. According to the Spanish constitution all attempts on the life of the Sovereign are brought for trial before the Senate; but the present atrocity was considered too great to admit of the honour of a trial by the Senate being accorded to Merino, and he was accordingly tried by the inferior courts and sentenced to death. He was executed at one o'clock on Saturday by the *garrote vil* (strangulation), outside the Gate Toledo, the ordinary place of execution in Madrid, in presence of a great multitude. Previous to the execution he was formally degraded from the rank of the priesthood. This portion of his sentence Merino underwent on the morning of the 5th. On one of the balconies of the prison of Saladero, where he was confined, and which had been prepared for the purpose, the Bishop of Majorca, proceeded, in presence of an immense multitude, to strip the criminal of his clerical vestments, and remove his tonsure. The judge, present at this part of the execution, told Merino that, from that moment, he might consider himself to be *in capita*. Until then, the regime had preserved a certain serenity, or rather an extraordinary insolence, constantly repeating that he had no other view in striking the Queen than to render service to humanity. The physicians who examined him declared that he had the perfect enjoyment of his mental faculties. The moment that solemn communication was made to him by the judge, his attitude changed, and he appeared downcast.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, February 15.—Sexagesima Sunday.
MONDAY, 16.—Sun rises 7h. 16m., sets 5h. 13m.
TUESDAY, 17.—Battle of St. Albans, 1451.
WEDNESDAY, 18.—Martin Luther died, 1546.
THURSDAY, 19.—Galileo born, 1564.
FRIDAY, 20.—Voltaire born, 1694. Duke of Suffolk beheaded, 1554.
SATURDAY, 21.—Archbishop Cranmer born, 1536.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 21, 1852.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
10 5	10 43	11 20	12 0	1 10	2 20	3 55

ANNOUNCEMENT.

Just published, in two vols. 8vo, cloth gilt, price one Guinea, with Portrait, now first collected, and translated in a complete form, THE POLITICAL WORKS OF LOUIS NAPOLEON BONAPARTE: with an ORIGINAL MEMOIR of his LIFE, brought down to the present date, drawn from Authentic Sources, Critical Notes, &c. These volumes will possess great interest at the present moment. Amongst the most important works of the Prince which they will comprise are his "Political Review," with the Scheme of a Constitution, published in 1832; "Ideas of Napoleonism;" "On the Extinction of Pauperism;" "Historical Epitome between 1838 and 1839," &c. &c. OMS, 27, Strand.

FREEMASONS' TAVERN, London.—Messrs. WATSON, COGGIN, and BANKS respectfully inform their Patrons and Friends that their INAUGURATION DINNER will take place on WEDNESDAY NEXT, the 18th inst. ALEX. ANDER DOBIE, Esq. in the Chair. Dinner to be on table at six o'clock. Tickets 21s each.

NOTICE.—The Subscribers to the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS can have their Volumes Bound in the appropriate Covers, Gilt Edged, at 5s. per Volume, by sending them carriage paid, with Post-office order payable to LEIGHTON, SON, and HODGE, 13, Shoe-lane, London.

NERVOUS AND MENTAL DISORDERS.
EASTGATE HOUSE, LINCOLN, a Private Establishment for the residence of a limited number of Ladies of the Upper and Middle Classes. Conducted by Mr. R. GARDINER HILL, M.D., Esq., originator of the system of "Non-restraint in Lunacy;" and Mrs. Hill. Physician, R. Elmhurst, Esq. M.D., Consultant.

SMART'S WRITING INSTITUTION, 5, Piccadilly, between the Haymarket and Regent-circus.—Open from Ten till Nine daily. Persons of all ages receive (privately) and taught at any time during their own convenience. Lessons out each. No cessation, no extras. The Government guaranteed in eight or twelve easy lessons. Separate rooms for ladies, to which department (if preferred) Mrs. Smart will attend.—For terms, &c., apply to Mr. Smart, as above.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, PALM-MALL.—The GALLERY for the EXHIBITION and SALE of the WORKS of BRITISH ARTISTS is OPEN DAILY, from Ten till Five. Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 1s.—GEORGE NICOL, Secretary.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, REGENT'S PARK.—The HIPPOPOTAMUS presented by H. H. the Viceroy of Egypt, the ELEPHANT-CALF and many recent additions, are exhibited daily.—Admission, 1s; on Mondays, 6d.

NATIONAL DEFENCES.—ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—An Explanatory Description of WILKINSON'S STADIA, the PRUSSIAN MUSKET, the LANCASHIRE and MINIE RIFLES, COLTS and ADAMS' REVOLVERS, the IMPROVED CORICAL BULLET, and other FIREARMS, will be given by Mr. CRISPE, DAILY, at Three o'clock, and at Half-past Eight in the Evenings.—A LECTURE on the MUSIC of MANY NATIONS, with Vocal Illustrations, by T. Thorpe Peck, Esq. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Evenings; in addition to the usual Exhibitions, Lectures, &c.—Admission, 1s; Schools and Children under ten years of age, half-price. Open daily from Eleven to Five, and every Evening, except Saturday, from Seven till Half-past Ten.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL, and GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—The Annual General Meeting of the Proprietors will be held at this Office on Thursday, the 4th day of March next, at One o'clock precisely, at which meeting Four Directors will be elected.

Any Proprietor desirous of proposing a Candidate for the office of Director must forward the name of such Candidate to the Secretary, at least fourteen days previous to the day of Election. The Ballot will commence at Eleven, and close at Two o'clock. The Bonus Report, just printed, giving full details of the Fifth Division of Profits, and the New Prospectus, can now be obtained of any of the Society's agents, or by addressing a line to GEORGE H. PINCKARD, Resident Secretary, 99, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury, London, February, 1852.

THOMAS LINTALL, Deceased.—Whereas Thomas Lintall, late of Caldecote House, Abingdon, in the county of Berks, Esquire, deceased, by his will, dated the 5th of March, 1836, gave to trustees in his Will named £2000 Reduced Annuities, upon trust for Richard Thompson, of Dover, in the county of Kent, gentleman; and Frederick Thompson, Edward Thompson, and Maria Thompson, children of the said Richard Thompson and Elizabeth his late wife. The said Thomas Lintall died on the 21st of February, 1841. The maiden name of the said Elizabeth, the wife of the said Richard Thompson, is stated to have been "Hart." Pursuant to a Decree of the Court of Chancery, made in two several causes of Richard v. Pearson, and Schollick v. Pearson, the said Richard Thompson, if living, or if dead, his legal personal representative, and also the said Frederick Thompson, Edward Thompson, and Maria Thompson, children of the said Richard Thompson and Elizabeth his late wife, if living, or the legal personal representative of such of them as may be dead, are, on or before the 1st day of March, 1852 to come in and establish their claim to the said sum of £2000 Reduced Annuities, before Sir William Hearn, one of the Masters of the said Court, at his Chambers in Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London; or in default thereof, to appear and defend the benefit of the said Decree. BUTCLIFFE and SUMMERS, Plaintiffs' Solicitors, 5, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars. THOMAS PEARSON, Solicitor, 22, Essex-street, Strand.

ROYAL PRINCESS' THEATRE, OXFORD-STREET.—Under the Management of Mr. CHARLES KEAN.—On MONDAY, FEB. 15, will be performed Shakespeare's Historical Play of KING JOHN, and the Pantomime. Tuesday, 16, Shakespeare's Comedy of Twelfth Night. The Swiss Cottage, and the Pantomime. Wednesday, 18, Shakespeare's Historical Play of King John, and the Pantomime. Thursday, 19, Shakespeare's Comedy of the Merry Wives of Windsor, and the Pantomime. Friday, 20, Shakespeare's Historical Play of King John, and the Pantomime. Saturday, 21st, To Parents and Guardians, the Swiss Cottage, and the Pantomime.

FRENCH PLAYS, St. James's Theatre, King-street, St. James's.—Loraine, Mr. JOHN MITCHELL, 33, Old Bond-street.—FIRST NIGHT OF SEASON 1852, and First Appearance of the Inimitable Actress Mlle. DEJAZET, and of Mlle. LA FONT.—Mr. Mitchell begs respectfully to announce that the present Season of French Plays at the St. James's Theatre will be commenced on MONDAY EVENING NEXT, FEB. 16, by the Production of a new Comédie-Vaudeville, entitled LA PENSION ALIMENTAIRE, Comédie-Vaudeville, en Deux Actes; par M. Rosier. After which will be produced a new Vaudeville, entitled LE MARQUIS DE LAUZUN, Comédie, en Un Acte, Mlle. de Compiègne, par MM. Carmouche et Paul Vermonet.—Doors will be opened at Half-past Seven o'clock, and the performances commence at Eight.—Price of Admission: Boxes, 9s; Pews, 5s; Upper theatre, 2s. Private Boxes, Stalls, and Tickets may be obtained at Mr. Mitchell's Dressing Library, 33, Old Bond-street; and at the Box-office of the Theatre, which is open daily from Eleven till Five o'clock.

ASTLEY'S ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. BATTY.—Immense success of the present Entertainment.—LAST WEEK of the popular Christmas Pantomime of MR. and MRS. BRIGGS.—On MONDAY, FEB. 16, 1852, and following evenings, will be presented the highly popular spectacle of BLUE BEARD; or, Fatal Curiosity, in reducing the pair of highly trained Elephants, which on night-ly hailed with the most tumultuous enthusiasm. To be continued by Betty's exterior, a very novel SCENES of the ARK, embracing the combined efforts of British and foreign artists. Combining with, or positively the Last 8 x Nights, the comic Pantomime of Mr. Briggs; or, Punch's Festival.—Box-office open from Eleven till Four daily.—See a Manager, Mr. T. Thompson.

ROYAL MARIONETTE THEATRE, Adelaide-street, West.—Street.—Triumphant success of the new Opera.—MONDAY, Feb. 15, and every Evening during the Week, an Occasional Address by Mr. Albany Brown. THE MARIONETTE ROOM, with Signor Bart Tons's Commentary on Shakespeare, and grand 4-act Opera, by Signora Barbieri Alenti. The new Italian Musical Opera THE UNITED SERVICES. The Neapolitan Overture Divertissement, ARLECCHINO FORTUNATO, with the Frolics of Salsarino and Pierrot. And, by particular desire, THE BOTTLE IN THE DOOR, open on Half-past Seven, and commence at Eight o'clock.—A MORNING JUVENILE PERFORMANCE on Wednesday and Saturday next, Feb. 15th and 21st; doors open at Half-past Two, and commence at Three o'clock. Private Boxes and Stalls to be had at the Box-office of the Theatre, and of all the principal Librarians.

MR. LINDSAY SLOPER'S SECOND SOIREE OF CHAMBER MUSIC will take place at the New Beethoven Rooms, 27, Queen Anne's, Cavendish-square, on THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19th, to commence at Half-past Eight o'clock.—Fancy tickets, to admit three, One Guinea each; a single ticket, Mr. Lindsay Sloper, each, may be had at all the principal Music Warehouses; and of Mr. Lindsay Sloper, 7, Southwick-place, Hyde-park.

MR. LUCAS respectfully announces the ANNUAL SERIES of MUSICAL EVENINGS for CLASSICAL CHAMBER COMPOSITIONS will take place at his residence, No. 54, Berners-street, on WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 10th and 12th, MAY 5th and 19th. To commence at half-past 8 o'clock. Violins, M. Salsarino and Mr. Blagrove; Viola, Mr. Hill; Violoncello, Mr. Lucas; assisted by other Eminent Artists. Subscriptions: One Guinea. Tickets to be obtained only at No. 54, Berners-street.

QUARTETT ASSOCIATION.—Under the immediate Patronage of her most Gracious Majesty the QUEEN, and his Royal Highness PRINCE ALBERT.—Messrs. SAINTON, COOPER, HILL, and PIATTI beg most respectfully to inform the musical Public that they will give a series of SIX MATINEES during the months of APRIL, May, June, and July; commencing on WEDNESDAY, 25th of APRIL, at Willis's Rooms, St. James's. A Planete of the first eminence will be engaged for each Performance. They are most happy to announce that Mr. G. Macfarren has undertaken the literary part of the Programme. Subscriptions for the Series, £1 11s 6d; Single Tickets, 10s 6d.—Further particulars will be duly announced.

EXETER-HALL.—A GRAND MUSICAL FESTIVAL will take place on the evening of ASH-WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25th, on which occasion Selections from the Works of Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and other celebrated composers, will be introduced by the following eminent artists:—Messrs. Sims Reeves, Phillips (daughter of Henry Phillips, Esq.), Rebecca Isaacs, Frankford, Alleyne, Eyles, Blackies, Anne Lascelles, and Evelina Garcia; Messrs. Sims Reeves, Swift, Frankford, Herr Jungmann, H. Drayton, and Henry Phillips. Instrumental solos, Miss Kate Loder, Miss Goddard; Messrs. Edmunds and Richard Smith. A full orchestra, conducted by M. Sedda, Mr. Frank Mori. Leading Soloists, Mr. Thirwall. Pianoforte accompanists, Mr. Lindsay Sloper and Herr Kuhn.—Doors open at Seven, commence at half-past Seven o'clock. Admission, 1s and 2s; Reserved Seats, 4s; Stalls (numbered), 7s. Tickets and Programmes to be had at all the Music-sellers.

ST. MARTIN'S HALL.—MONTHLY CONCERTS OF ANCIENT and MODERN MUSIC, under the Direction of Mr. JOHN HULLAH (second season).—The Second Concert on WEDNESDAY EVENING NEXT, at Eight o'clock, when will be performed BETHOVEN'S GRAND MASS in C, and CHORAL FANTASIA.—Pianoforte, Mr. George Russell (pupil of Mr. Scordale Bennett); and the Overture and Second Act of Weber's Opera, OBERON. Principal Performers, Mrs. Weiss, Miss Weiss (pupil of Sir George Smart), Miss Alleyne, Miss Cobb, Miss Kent, Mr. Swift, Mr. Wallwork, &c. Mr. George Russell. The Chorus will consist of the members of Mr. Hullah's First Upper school. Tickets: Area, 2s 6d; Reserved Seats, 5s; Stalls, 7s 6d. May be had of Mr. PARKER, 445, Strand; of the Music-sellers; and at St. Martin's Hall.

ROBIN'S SOIREEES PARISIENNES & FANTASTIQUES.—Inimitable Novelties. Every Evening at Eight o'clock, at the Theatre, will repeat their inimitable SOIREE. Every Wednesday a Morning Performance, at Half-past Two. Children under ten years of age, half-price. Places may be secured at Mr. Mitchell's Royal Library, Mr. Sams's Royal Library, Ebers's, Andrews, &c. N.B.—The entertainments will be concluded with the marvellous performances of Antonio Diavolo and his Clowns (two automata of unrivalled perfection); and also the 2nd Moment of a Boomer.

CALDWELL'S ASSEMBLY-ROOMS, Dean-street, Soho, capable of accommodating 2000 persons.—SOIREEES DANCANTES Every Night. Admission, 6d; per quarter, £1 1s. Mr. Caldwell undertakes to teach any Lady or Gentleman unacquainted with the routine of the Ball-Room to enter with grace and freedom, and take part in this fashionable Amusement in Six Private Lessons for 12s. Class Night on Form every Tuesday week. The next LONG QUADRILLE NIGHT will take place on TUESDAY FEB. 23. Admission, 1s.

HINDOSTAN.—This Grand MOVING DIORAMA is now Open Daily, at Twelve, Three, and Eight, at the ASIATIC GALLERY, Baker-street, Portman-square. Admission, 1s; Stalls, 2s; Reserved Seats, 2s 6d. "One of the most beautiful dioramas ever exhibited in this country."—Morning Herald. "A new, beautiful, and most attractive exhibition: a combination of high talent."—Naval and Military Gazette.

PANORAMA of NIMROUD, ancient NINEVEH.—JUST OPENED, at BURFORD'S PANORAMA ROYAL, Leicester-square.—The above View comprises the recent Excavations, Temple Palaces, and wonderful Relics of Antiquity discovered by A. H. Layard, Esq.; also the Rivers Tigris and Zab, the Chaldean, or Nestorian, and the Kurdish Mountains, with the surrounding scenery of the deepest and most intense interest. THE VIEWS of NIAGARA, JERUSALEM, and LUCERNE, are also NOW OPEN.—Admission, 1s each circle; or 2s 6d to the three circles. Schools, half-price. Open from 10 till 10 last.

PRINCE OF WALES' BAZAAR, or, the Crystal Palace of Regent-street, 207 to 209, and CO-MORAMA.—This beautiful Bazaar, fitted up in a style of elegance never before attempted in this or any other country, is OPEN DAILY, from 10 till half-past 5, and includes every Useful and Fancy Article in endless variety; together with a selected Aviary of Native and Foreign Birds; also, a fine GALLERY of PAINTINGS for SALE, by the Old and Modern Masters.—Admission Free.

LAST WEEK BUT ONE OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE as a GARDEN; the Diorama of the OVERLAND MAIL to INDIA and TAJ MEHAL, now exhibiting daily, at Three and Eight o'clock, at the GALLERY of ILLUSTRATION, Regent-street (for the production of the new Diorama, "The Achievements of Wellington").—Admission, 1s. 2s 6d, and 3s. Doors open half an hour before each representation.

THE ROYAL COLLECTION of DRAWINGS of the GREAT EXHIBITION of ALL NATIONS is now ON VIEW at Messrs DICKINSON'S GALLERY, 114, NEW BOND-STREET.—These magnificent pictures were painted by Messrs Nash, Haghe, and Roberts, R.A., for his Royal Highness Prince Albert, who has graciously permitted their publication, as the only imperishable record of what is passed away for ever.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.—The back Numbers of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS for 1850 and 1851 are now Reprinted, and may be obtained by order of all Booksellers and News-agents at the published price. The Numbers previous to 1850 can be had only in Parts or Volumes.

* * The Obituary Notices are unavoidably deferred.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK.

Shrapnell's Survey of London.—Jacotot's Method.—History of a New SpERM Whale.—Wayside Gatherings.—Horace Grantham. 3 vols.—Memorials of the Great Exhibition.—Household Chemistry.—The Half Century.—MUSIC.—"Home."—"L'Amore."—"Io Sento che in Peto."—"Come quel Fior di Loto."

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1852.

THE attempt on the life of the Queen of Spain is, perhaps, the most revolting and atrocious act of intended regicide yet recorded in the annals of past or present times. A young mother with her infant by her side is a sight that a savage would respect, if he did not admire; but it would appear that not even that affecting spectacle, in addition to all the other sanctities which should surround a defenceless woman, and that woman a Queen, is not sufficient, in all cases, to arrest the murderous arm of the political maniac—the worst of all possible savages. When the treacherous deed of the priest Merino was first made known, it was not unnaturally suspected that his act might have been instigated by those who have an interest, real or supposed, in the death of the Queen of Spain; but the investigation which has taken place into the circumstances of the act itself, and the inquiries that have been made in the previous life and character of the wretched assassin, all point to the conclusion that the act was strictly his own, and that it was not even indirectly prompted by the political passions of Europe. In every civilised country it will

create satisfaction to know that the young and interesting Sovereign, though seriously wounded, is stated by her medical attendants to be rapidly recovering. The wretched maniac, not so mad as to be held unaccountable for his actions, has already suffered the extreme penalty of the law, not, however, until he had been publicly degraded from the priesthood.

It is not to be expected that every gentleman who fills a situation in the Government, whether that of a Cabinet Minister or one inferior in dignity, should be thoroughly well informed upon every public question, and especially upon questions of finance. Yet it is not too much to expect of a gentleman in such a position that he should be well informed upon every question on which he volunteers to make a statement before the public. Mr. Fox Maule has lately been addressing the electors of Perth upon a variety of topics; and among others—on which he was not called upon to speak unless he had so chosen—was the subject of the Excise Duty upon Paper. Upon that subject Mr. Maule said, "That the paper duty had been called a tax upon knowledge; but in his opinion, whether it were a tax upon knowledge or not, it was not one of large amount, and not very oppressive." To show that it was not "very" oppressive, he cited one of Mr. McCulloch's bulky statistical books, published at a high price, and stated that "the Excise duty upon it just amounted to the mighty sum of three-halfpence." For this reason—and the right honourable gentleman either knew no other, or did not think it worth his while to bring it forward if he did—he considered that the tax fell lightly, and ought not to be repealed, unless its repeal made part of some grand fiscal reform, which, for his part, he did not think likely to be produced. Without meaning the slightest disrespect to Mr. Maule, we think he ought not to have ventured to discuss this question at all, unless he had studied it, and knew something about it. In the case of books published for the rich, at a price of one guinea or two guineas per volume, we own that the tax is the merest trifle, and not worth speaking about. Were there no other books than these in England, Mr. Fox Maule might be left to his argument; but a gentleman who aspires to be a legislator, even in a much humbler capacity than that which he so worthily fills, ought to remember, that, in this age, and in this country, books have become, not the mere luxuries of the rich, but the necessities of the poor. Mr. Maule should know that there are such things in the world as newspapers, and cheap books and publications like those of Mr. Charles Dickens, the Messrs. Chambers of Edinburgh, and others, which carry on the great work of popular education, by providing mental aliment for the multitude, including the middle and lower, as well as the upper classes; and that the same tax which inflicts only three-halfpence on Mr. McCulloch's guinea or two guinea books, weighs like a fearful burden, almost amounting to a prohibition, upon the cheap periodicals. Perth is not so far from Edinburgh or London as to have prevented Mr. Maule from asking any eminent publishers or large consumers of paper how this tax affects them. He would have learned a very different story if he had simply condescended to take that trouble, and would have found reason to qualify, if not to retract, the assertions which he made at Perth. He might yet discover, if he would only devote an hour to the subject, that the tax is in the highest degree injurious to literature, and not only to literature, but to manufactures and trade; that its operation is to prevent England from being a great paper exporting country, to prevent the poor from having cheap and good literature, and to impose a whole host of taxes not originally intended, such as a tax on paper for rooms, on *papier maché* furniture, on packing-cases, and on the packing-paper used both by wholesale and retail traders, often amounting to as much as five or six per cent. on the value of the articles packed. All this, and much more, he might learn, and all this he ought to have learned before he took upon himself the task of addressing a public assembly upon the subject, and calling a heavy and oppressive tax a light and unimportant one. It is not possible to name a tax that interferes in so many ways with the industry, the trade, the comfort, and the education of the people as this particular impost; and we trust that, when the subject of its abolition comes next under consideration, the country may have the benefit of Mr. Fox Maule's more enlarged and comprehensive studies. We cannot imagine that he would support the tax, if he knew it to be even half so injurious and indefensible as it is. He has avowed himself to be a firm friend of education. We believe him to be so; and as a friend of education we trust that he will devote to this important subject the attention which it merits.

COURT AND HAUT TON.

THE COURT AT WINDSOR CASTLE.

During the past week there has been a lull in the courtly hospitalities dispensed by her Majesty and the Prince consort. The Queen and his Royal Highness are in the enjoyment of excellent health.

The concluding days of her Majesty's sojourn at Windsor were passed in comparative privacy, the circle of distinguished guests who left the Castle on Saturday not having been filled up by fresh arrivals.

On Tuesday (the anniversary of her Majesty's marriage) the band of the Royal Horse Guards performed a *matinale* on the south terrace. In the evening her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, attended by the ladies and gentlemen of the household, went to an evening party at her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent's, at Frogmore House. The Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and the Princess Alice joined the dance for a short time during the early part of the evening. Her Majesty's private band was in attendance.

THE PRIVY COUNCIL.—The Queen held a Privy Council, at half-past two o'clock on Monday afternoon, at the Castle, at which her Majesty was pleased to appoint the Right Hon. Edward Lord Stanley of Alderley Vice-President of the Committee of Council appointed for the consideration of all matters relating to trade and foreign plantations. At the Court, Mr. Charles Barry was presented to the Queen, and had the honour of Knighthood conferred upon him by her Majesty.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent arrived in town on Monday morning from her residence, Frogmore, near Windsor. Her Royal Highness visited the Duchess of Gloucester, at Gloucester House, Piccadilly, and in the afternoon left Clarence House, St. James's, for Frogmore.

The Duke and Duchess of Montrose entertained a select circle at dinner on Wednesday evening, at their mansion in Belgrave-square. The Duchess had a *soirée dansante* on Thursday.

The Countess Grey's party for the 14th instant is unavoidably postponed.

Viscountess Palmerston had a brilliant reception on Saturday evening, at the family mansion in Carlton-gardens. Almost all the rank and fashion in town were present.

Lady John Russell's second assembly took place on Wednesday evening, at the private mansion of the Premier, in Chesham-place. The *réunion* was very fully attended. Lord John Russell will give the first Cabinet dinner this season to his colleagues on Wednesday next.

The death of Dowager Lady Ranelagh took place this week, in Paris.

The marriage of Lord Hatherton with Mrs. Davenport, of Capes Moore, in the county of Chester was solemnised on Wednesday, by special license, in the private chapel at Lambeth Palace, his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury officiating.

Married, on Wednesday last, by licence, at St. George's Church, Hanover-square, the Lady Adelaide Vane, youngest daughter of the Marquis and Marchioness of Londonderry, to the Rev. F. H. Law, a tutor in his Lordship's family. The marriage took place without the knowledge, privacy, or consent of her Ladyship's noble parents.

The Right Hon. Lord Dinorben died at Kinnel-park, Denbighshire, on the 10th instant, in his 85th year.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

The political news from Paris this week is unusually barren of interest. A few decrees respecting the formation of electoral districts, the nomination of superior officers of the new police department of the Ministry, and the costumes of the new senators and councillors of state, constitute the chief acts of the Executive. The last named decree is as follows:—

Senators.—Coat of blue velvet, with standing collar and cuffs embroidered, fitting close to the waist, and ornamented with embroidery on the pocket-flaps. The embroidery is to be in gold, representing palm-trees interlaced with oaks; the palm-trees in *cannelille* mate with the back of the palm leaves in bright embroidery, the oak leaves being worked *au passé*, with the lines of the leaves in bright embroidery; the whole of the coat to be edged round with embroidery, six centimetres wide at least. Council of State.—Light blue coat, with nine gilt buttons in front; waistcoat of white *piqué*, cut straight, with fine gilt buttons; trousers of white kerseymere, with gold band down the sides. The Vice-President, the President of Sections, and the Councillors of State are to wear gold embroidery, composed of oak leaves and olive leaves interlaced, on the collar, cuffs, the front of the coat and coat tails, the whole coat being edged with gold embroidery. The Vice-President has gold embroidery above the pockets, and an edging of wide embroidery round the dress in every part. The Masters of Requests are to have the same description of gold embroidery on the collar, cuffs, and pockets, with narrow embroidery round the coat. The Auditors have embroidery on the collars and cuffs, but no embroidery round the coat. The hat is of black beaver, with gold ornaments placed on velvet, with white plumes for the Vice-President and the Presidents of Sections, and black plumes for the Councillors of State, the Masters of Requests, and the Auditors. The sword is to be a straight one, with gilt hilt. In dress, the Councillors of State and Masters of Requests are to wear coats embroidered on the collar and cuffs, but without the gold edging, white waistcoat, and black trousers, without gold band.

The appearance of this frivolous document at a time when important measures on finance and questions of political economy are looked for at the hands of the Government, has created a mixed feeling of ridicule and contempt in the public mind.

The President of the Republic is about to appoint four new aides-de-camp.

M. Cambacères has been appointed Secretary-General of the Ministry of Police.

Rumours were in circulation during the week, that M. Fould and M. de Morny were about to resume their former offices in the Cabinet; in which case M. de Persigny would take the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, and M. Turgot receive an important embassy. Nothing definite, however, has yet transpired on the matter.

Shots having been fired, on Saturday and Sunday night, on the sentinels on duty at some of the forts around Paris, the authorities have resolved on severe measures for repressing these nocturnal attacks on soldiers.

It would appear that the French Government do not reciprocate the apprehensions of war entertained in England, for, according to a recent decision of the Minister of War, the soldiers whose service expires in 1852, and who are now on furlough, are authorised to remain absent until further orders.

On Tuesday, at the Academy of Sciences, the election of a member in the place of M. Maurice, deceased, took place. The candidates presented by the commission of the Institute were M. Delessert and M. C. Bonaparte. No other candidate obtained the requisite majority; and, upon a ballot, M. Delessert, having obtained 37 votes to 24 given to M. C. Bonaparte, was declared to be duly elected, subject to the approbation of the President of the Republic.

The dulness of Parisian journalism was relieved by a controversy between M. de Montalembert and M. Lemoine, of the *Journal des Débats*, who, commenting on M. de Montalembert's late inaugural address at the Academy, infers that the eminent orator is not a true friend to freedom.

M. de Lamartine has addressed a letter to the *Journal du Saône et Loire*, in which he expresses his intention to refuse any invitation to offer himself as a candidate for the Legislative Body.

MM. Marc Dufraisse and Greppo, ex-representatives of the people, who had been included in the list of persons ordered to be transported to Cayenne, have had a change effected in their destination. They are to be banished perpetually.

M. Renaud, ex-representative of the Basses Pyrénées, who was included in the decree of banishment, has obtained permission from the Spanish Government to take up his residence at Valcarlos, near his relative, M. Aguirre, ex-deputy of the Cortes.

UNITED STATES.

Advices from New York to the 28th ult. state that Kossuth was busy at Pittsburgh making speeches and replying to delegations. His next visit was to be to Cleveland. The New York State Agricultural Society had passed resolutions welcoming Kossuth, and agreeing to present him with the proceedings of the association, from which he will have an opportunity of gaining an insight into the system of American agriculture. One of the members likewise offered to present Kossuth with a first-rate plough, provided he would settle down in that State. Bitter hostilities had broken out between the Germans and Hungarians in the United States. Kinkel represents one race, Kossuth is the leader of the other. The feud had extended to the organs of each. The Kossuth papers have assailed Kinkel, and the Kinkel papers have assailed Kossuth, and threaten an exposure of "the truths and facts." They contend that Kinkel is as pure a patriot, in every respect, as his rival for popularity. A long letter from Kossuth to Consul Hodges, dated as far back as September 30, had found its way into the New York papers. The letter reproaches Captain Leag for his conduct towards him on board the *Mississippi*, in refusing to take Kossuth to various ports in the Mediterranean, when on his passage from Turkey, in order to his making a "democratic demonstration" at these places.

In Congress nothing had occurred calling for special notice.

The disagreement with the Austrian Charge remains still unsettled.

The great severity of the weather all over the United States continued unabated. Navigation has been interrupted by ice at New Orleans, as well as in New York. Persons have been frozen to death as far south as Baltimore. Numbers have perished in the streets of New York. The quantity of ice housed by the various companies for the summer consumption and for export is immense.

Some excitement had been caused by what is regarded as an outrage on the American flag. The schooner *Midas*, arrived at Savannah from Rio, had reported that, on Dec. 21, lat. 8 deg. 40 min. S., long. 34 deg. 50 min. W., she was boarded by the Brazilian cruiser *Sendera*, and had her papers overhauled. At parting, the cruiser fired a shot across the schooner's bows.

Amongst the miscellaneous news we find noticed the termination of the Forrest (the actor) divorce case. After a trial of thirty-two days' duration, the jury had brought in a verdict on every issue in favour of the plaintiff (Mrs. Forrest), with, as a separate maintenance, an award of 3000 dollars a year.

The steamer *De Witt Clinton* sank on the 26th ult., a few miles below Memphis, on the Mississippi river, and thirty of the persons on board were drowned.

A famine was feared in the Lake Superior copper region.

A fire occurred in Fulton-street, New York, on the 27th ult., by which damage to the extent of 220,000 was done.

A slight shock of earthquake was felt at Louisville on the 26th ult.

A fire occurred at Springfield on the 27th ult.; loss 40,000 dollars.

WEST INDIES.

The advices this week from Jamaica are to the 17th of January. The cholera had nearly disappeared in the town, and but few cases had occurred in the districts. An order had been issued by the Governor to the health officers, to place all vessels coming from places infected with cholera under quarantine.

The Legislature was still in session. Little, however, of importance had been transacted, and it was thought their labours would soon be brought to a close.

Strong hopes were entertained that Kingston would again be made the *dépôt* for the Royal Mail Company's steam-ships.

A good deal of ill-feeling still existed respecting the government of Sir Charles Grey, and it was hoped by the inhabitants that he would shortly be removed, and Lord Harris appointed his successor.

The advices from the various islands represent them as in a very healthy state, and the weather highly favourable for the crops.

From British Guiana we learn, under date the 12th ult. that an important public meeting was held at George-town on the 30th of December, for the purpose of co-operating with the British and Foreign Anti Slavery Society in an effort to bring the case of the West Indies under the notice of the Imperial Parliament at an early period of the present session: petitions to both Houses were drawn up and agreed to; gentlemen were also nominated to convene district meetings in various parts of the colony, for the purpose of seconding the measures adopted. The neighbouring colonies were expected to take the same course.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

OXFORD.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.—An election to four scholarships now vacant in this college will be held on Saturday, March 20. The examination will commence on Wednesday morning, March 17, at ten o'clock.

CONVOCAION OF YORK.

The following correspondence has been published:—

"TO THE MOST REV. THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF YORK.

"My Lord Archbishop,—The undersigned members of the Convocation of the Province of York have attended at the Chapter House this morning, in pursuance of her Majesty's writ of prorogation, to present petitions which have been confided to us for that purpose from the several dioceses of York, Durham, Chester, Carlisle, Ripon, and Manchester. The petitions, which are numerous, signed both by clergy and laity, concur in the prayer that the Convocation would take steps to procure from the Crown the necessary license for the exercise of its constitutional functions. Finding that there is no authority from your Grace to open the session, we respectfully request to be informed at what time we shall have the opportunity of performing our duty in this respect. We have the honour to be your Grace's most dutiful servants,

"ROBERT J. WILBERFORCE, Archdeacon of the East Riding.

"EDWARD CHURTON, Archdeacon of Cleveland.

"GEORGE TREVOR, Proctor for the Chapter of York.

"FRANCIS R. GREY, Proctor for the Archdeaconry of Lindisfarne, dio. Durham.

"SAMUEL GAMLEN, Proctor for the Archdeaconry of Cleveland.

"York, Feb. 4."

REPLY.

"My dear Mr. Archdeacon,—In reply to the memorial from certain members of Convocation, received this morning, I beg to say that I believe ancient precedent has been followed, and that, in the absence of any licence from the Crown to proceed to business, I can only direct and request that the petitions entrusted to the memorialists may be forwarded to me, in order that the same may be placed securely by the registrar among the records of Convocation. I am, my dear Mr. Archdeacon, faithfully yours,

"To the Venerable the Archdeacon of Cleveland."

APPOINTMENTS AND PREFERMENTS.—The following appointments and preferments have been recently made:—*Deanery Rural*: The Rev. Samuel Banks, to Chesterton. *Archdeaconry*: The Rev. Robert Young Keays, to Bom-bay. *Rectories*: The Rev. H. A. Bishop, to Clay-next-the-Sea, Norfolk; the Rev. F. Chase, to St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe, with St. Anne, Blackfriars, London; the Rev. R. C. Hales, to St. Martin Carfax, Oxford; the Rev. H. M. Sims, to Hinderwell-cum-Roxby, diocese of York; the Rev. Henry James Lloyd, to Selattyn, Salop. *Vicarages*: The Rev. W. Borlase, to Zennor, Cornwall; the Rev. P. B. Brodie, to Foleshill, near Coventry; the Rev. Edward Gillett, to Runham, Norfolk; the Rev. William Francis Gray, to Cornwood, Devon; the Rev. James Potter, to Ellington; the Rev. Samuel Silver, to All Saints, Fulbourne, Cambridgeshire; the Rev. E. Waylen, to Wigton, Cumberland; the Rev. Percival George Willoughby, to Carlton-le-Moorland and Stapleford, Lincolnshire.

TESTIMONIALS.—The following clergymen have recently received testimonials of esteem and respect:—The Rev. R. Mant, curate of Chard, from the inhabitants; the Rev. J. Llewellyn Roberts, from some of the parishioners of Holywell, Oxford; the Rev. G. W. Dodd, curate to the Hon. and Very Rev. the Dean of Lichfield, from the congregation; the Rev. J. T. Jaques, chaplain to Peter Ainsworth, Esq., Smithill's Hall, Lancashire, from the congregation; the Rev. N. Germon, from the teachers, scholars, and poorer members of the Holy Trinity Church, Hulme; the Rev. Heneage Gibbs, from the congregation of All Saints' Church, Sidmouth, Devon.

UNITED BENEFICES IN THE PROVINCE OF YORK.—It appears by a Parliamentary paper printed on Tuesday, at the instance of Mr. Frewen, that 20 benefices, of the annual value of £2915, have been united within the province of York, under the Act 1 and 2 Vic., cap. 106. Six benefices have also been united within the diocese of Chester, of the annual value of £536. There have not any unions of benefices under the same act in the dioceses of Carlisle, Durham, Manchester, or Sodor and Man.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, on Monday, a trial took place before Lord Campbell and a special jury, in which a person named Mellersh was prosecuted for perjury. Mr. Holland, the real prosecutor, was a brewer, and the defendant was an attorney at Godalming. In 1843 the defendant advanced the prosecutor £2000 upon the security of a mortgage deed, and the advance was subsequently increased by another party to £12,000, and it was alleged the prosecutor was induced to sign a deed consigning property to friends of the defendant which the prosecutor had no intention whatever to mortgage. Immediately after this transaction the defendant became the attorney and banker of the prosecutor, and, acting upon his advice, the prosecutor left Godalming because he was in a state of ill health. He remained absent from Godalming for some time, and on his return he found the defendant in possession of his mortgaged property. The prosecutor, as he alleged, then discovered that he had signed the mortgage deed without knowing the real nature of its contents, and he filed a bill in Chancery against the defendant for the purpose of upsetting the deed, and the perjury assigned in this indictment was alleged to be contained in the answers to that bill. The answer set forth that so far from the prosecutor being ignorant of the purport and force of the deed, it was in point of fact read over to him, and minutely explained, and he was quite cognisant of the real conditions and provisions of the deed. The prosecutor, however, denied all this; and having pronounced the answer to be made up of a tissue of falsehoods, he was induced to prefer various indictments for perjury against the defendant, as many, indeed, as ten, but the majority of them were thrown out by the grand jury before whom they were taken. The jury, after a brief deliberation, returned a verdict for the defendant. Lord Campbell said he fully concurred in the verdict. The indictments for perjury arising out of the proceedings in Chancery were now carried to a most scandalous extreme. He would ask the jury whether they were unanimously of opinion that no reflection whatever had been cast upon the defendant? The jury, one and all, stated that they were unanimously of that opinion. This intimation was received with a burst of applause from a dense throng, who had crowded the court from the commencement of the sittings. The rest of the indictments against the same defendant and others were then abandoned.

LORD BROUGHAM'S NEW COUNTY COURTS BILL.—On Saturday Lord Brougham's new bill on the County Courts was printed, by order of the House of Lords. By this bill the salaries of the judges may be increased to £1500 a year, and clerks to £700 a year. An appeal is to lie by either party to a trial dissatisfied with the determination of a County Court judge in point of law in any case, tried with or without a jury. The Lord Chancellor may appoint County Court judges and commissioners and others of the Court of Bankruptcy to be officers of the Court of Chancery. The Hundred Court of Offlow is to be abolished.

ABOLITION OF THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF BANKRUPTS.—The Lord Chancellor has laid on the table of the House of Lords a bill (which was printed on Saturday) to abolish the office of Secretary of Bankrupts and to regulate the office of Chief Registrar of the Court of Bankruptcy. A declaration of insolvency by a trader is to be filed with the Chief Registrar. Compensation is to be given to the party holding the office to be abolished.

MR. CROMPTON AND THE LIVERPOOL COURT OF PASSAGE.—On Saturday morning the business of the Court of Passage was brought to a close by Mr. Crompton, the present assessor, who has been selected to succeed Mr. Justice Patteson as one of the judges of the Queen's Bench. As Mr. Crompton was about to leave the bench, Mr. Blair, the senior barrister, rose and congratulated Mr. Crompton upon the elevated position to which he was about being raised, at the same time expressing the deep regret which was felt by the bar at the removal from the assessorship of the Court of Passage of one so eminent as a lawyer, so courteous and kind as a gentleman. Mr. Crompton, who seemed much affected, said he was quite unprepared for so great a compliment, and he sincerely thanked them for their kindness. Before retiring, he wished to bear testimony to the admirable manner in which the business of the court had been conducted.

In the Southwark police-court, on Saturday last, Mr. Kennet, the landlord of the Hoop and Grapes Tavern, Queen-square, Westminster, was bound over in recognizances to prosecute the notorious witness, Thomas Stowell, who, with another person, stands charged with having conspired to practice extortion upon the proprietors of public places, by falsely accusing them under a highly penal statute. The subordinate culprit avowed his own guilt before the magistrates at the Lambeth Police Court, and made a full confession of perjuries which he had committed in aid of the conspiracy.

THE HON. JUSTICE PATESON.—On Tuesday, just before the rising of the Court, the Attorney-General, on behalf of the bar, addressing Mr. Justice Pateson, said he was deputed to express the deep regret felt by the profession at the retirement of his Lordship from a bench which he had filled with so much honour and ability, and of which he was for many years so great an ornament. Mr. Justice Pateson returned his warm thanks for the compliment just paid him, and said that, though in the enjoyment of bodily good health, he felt himself constrained to resign his office in consequence of the defective state of his hearing. In conclusion, he bade the members of the bar a most affectionate farewell, and wished them all health and happiness and honour in their profession. A burst of applause followed the learned judge's reply, during the continuance of which he courteously bowed to his compere on the bench and the bar, and then withdrew.

LIVERPOOL COUNTY COURT.—MR. RAMSHAY.—Lord Campbell gave judgment in this case on Tuesday. It was an application for a *quo warranto*, requiring Joseph Pollock, Esq., to show by what authority he exercised the office of Judge of the County Court at Liverpool. The grounds relied upon were, that the office to which Mr. Pollock was appointed was not legally vacant; that the evidence produced before the Chancellor of the Duchy was not given upon oath; that the Chancellor had no authority for the removal of Mr. Ramshay without affording the latter an opportunity of being heard before a jury, &c. His Lordship overruled all these objections, and declared that the 9 and 10 Vic., c. 95, s. 8, being the statute in question, furnished no authority for making them.

TERRIBLE INUNDATION AND LOSS OF LIFE AT HOLMFIRTH.



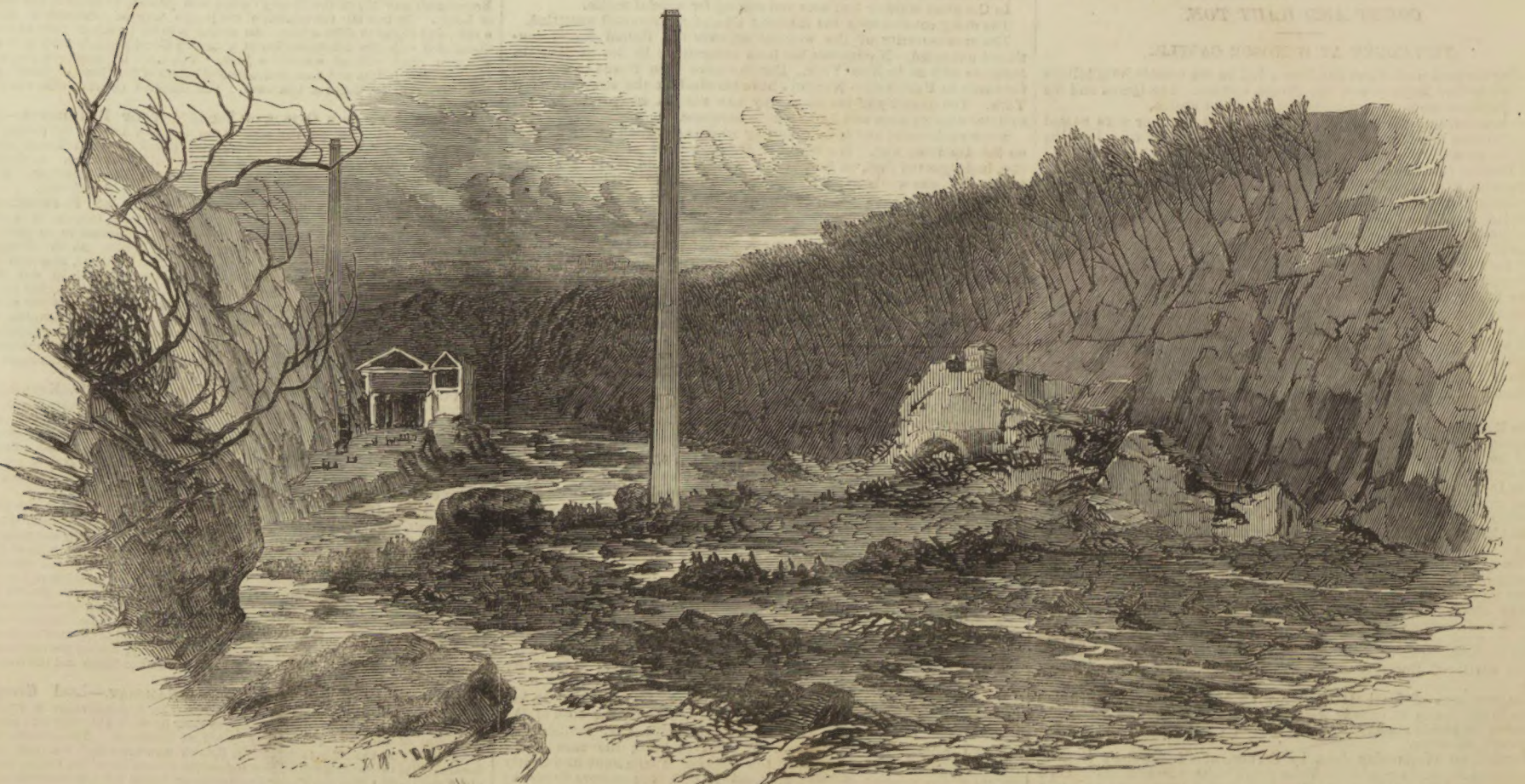
BURSTING OF THE RESERVOIR EMBANKMENT.—(SEE PAGE 146.)



BROADHEAD'S MILL.



REMAINS OF HOLME BRIDGE.



REMAINS OF DIGHLEY MILL.

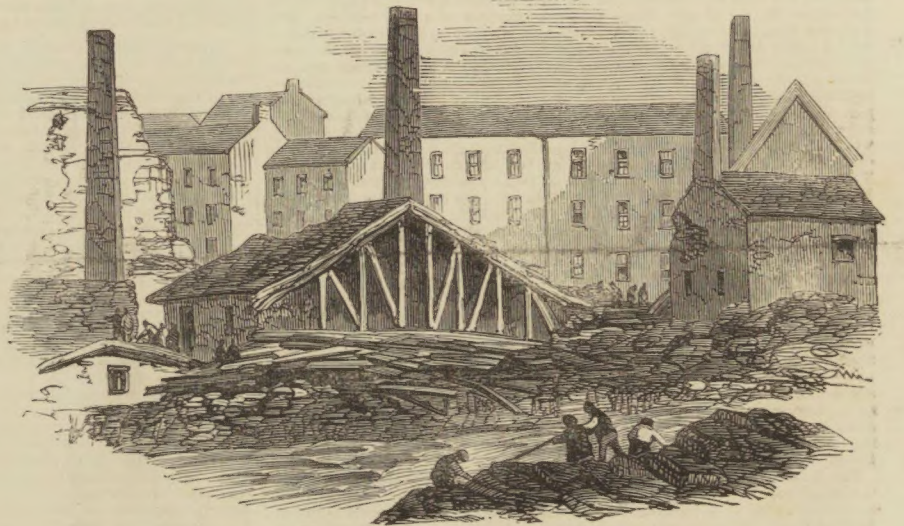
TERRIBLE INUNDATION AND LOSS OF LIFE AT HOLMFIRTH.



WATER-STREET, AND HINCHLIFFE'S MILL.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



REMAINS OF THE UPPER BRIDGE.



SCENE OPPOSITE THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL.



REMAINS OF BRIDGE, AND SITE OF TOLL-HOUSE.

THE FATAL INUNDATION AT HOLMFIRTH.

This melancholy catastrophe, which we noticed in our late edition of last week, has, it appears, been much more calamitous in its consequences than was at first supposed. Scarcely recovered from the shock inflicted by the news of the burning of the *Amazon*, we are again put in possession of intelligence equally appalling of a calamity more exclusive in its character, and attended with a still greater destruction of human life. The circumstances of this disastrous occurrence were rendered awfully appalling, not only from its suddenness, but also from the great loss of life which it occasioned.

On Thursday morning, the 5th instant, at one o'clock, the inhabitants of Holmfirth were suddenly overwhelmed by a mountainous mass of water, which, bursting through an extensive reservoir, hurried them without a moment's warning into eternity. A more complete wreck, a more melancholy scene than Holmfirth presented to the thousands who visited it on Thursday, has never been beheld. The streets were filled with broken furniture, carding machines, huge iron boilers, bags of wool, and other things; and the grave-yards had their dead dislodged, and their contents borne again to the doors of the living.

Holmfirth is about seven miles from Huddersfield. The town is built in a deep valley, with immense ranges of hills on each side; and at the lowest level, in a somewhat circuitous course, through the centre of the town, winds the river Holme, which is crossed at different points by four stone bridges. From Holmfirth runs the valley of the Holme for a distance of several miles, winding amongst most alpine scenery, and forming deep ravines, with scarcely an outlet for three or four miles, when they terminate on vast tracts of moorland. Along the bed of these ravines runs a strong mountain stream, enlarged, as it rushes on from the moors, by the streams which fall down the mountain sides, until it reaches Holme Bridge, where it meets and empties itself in the river Holme, which passes through Holmfirth. On each side of this stream of water are erected numerous scribbling and falling-mills along the whole course of the valley. As the supply of water in droughty weather is inadequate for the purposes required, the idea was conceived of storing up water in huge reservoirs at the top of the highest hills; and to the bursting of one of these reservoirs the present frightful destruction of life and property is attributable.

The "Holme reservoirs" are three in number, and are formed at the top of the hills, at some distance from each other. They are called "the Bilberry," "the Holmestye," and the "Bawshaw" reservoirs. They were made under the authority of an act of Parliament, passed in 1840, and constructed under the superintendence of Mr. Loather, C.E., of Leeds. The cost of the whole was £70,000 or more. The particular reservoir which has caused the present destruction is "the Bilberry." It is situated three miles from Holmfirth, at the foot of the moors, which extend from the Yorkshire and Cheshire hills, and terminate in a bluff or hill called "Good Bent." The reservoir lies between two hills, called Hookrook Hill and Lion Bank, the former of which forms its north, and the latter its south boundary. The water for this reservoir is supplied by the effluence of two streams at the foot of "Good Bent" bluff, which drain the vast extent of moorland in that district for many miles. The embankment to form the other side of the reservoir is constructed a little lower down, where the valley or ravine widens; and by this means, with two natural embankments, and the one alluded to, a vast reservoir is formed, with a surface of eleven acres or more. The depth is said to be sixty feet. The surplus water is carried away by a tunnel running under the reservoir, communicated with by a funnel or chimney behind and just below the embankment, which is worked by means of a shuttle. This shuttle, it has been alleged, has lately become unworkable, preventing the surplus water from being let out, and as the heavy rains have very much filled the reservoir, its weight acting upon what has long been considered an insecure embankment, the latter has suddenly given way, and allowed the accumulated waters to rush down into the ravine, along the valley of the Holme, with a force which was perfectly resistless.

The embankment of the reservoir has always, from being leaky, been regarded as unsafe, and from time to time rumours have been circulated in Holmfirth that it was likely to give way. Some of the company's servants, it is said, were watching it on the Wednesday before the accident, and, in consequence of what transpired, the whole of the families connected with the Digheley Mill, which is near the reservoir, fortunately removed the night before. Had they not done so, there would doubtless have been a serious addition to the present fearful loss of life. These premises consisted of a mill fourteen yards square and four stories high; a weaving shed, with thirty-four power-looms at work; steam engine and water power; two superior dwelling-houses, one occupied by Mrs. Hirst (widow of the late Mr. George Hirst) and family, and the other by Mr. Henry Beardsall; also cottages and numerous outbuildings; making altogether quite a small town. These premises stood in a rather wide part of the valley, but not far from a curve in it. On Thursday there was literally not one stone left upon another; the whole suite of buildings were swept away, with the exception of one house, built in the embankment, and of a tall engine chimney, round the base of which gurgled the still foaming and angry water. The rumours which induced the parties at Digheley to remove were current in Holmfirth the same evening; but, unfortunately, the inhabitants disregarded them, and retired to rest, hoping that all would be well.

It appears that the pent-up waters burst their barrier a little after one o'clock on Thursday morning, and in a resistless and mighty torrent swept away all obstacles. The town has a population of six thousand, most of whom were, of course, in bed at one o'clock in the morning; and the only warning given was by a few watchers, who started off when it was seen that the reservoir was really about to burst its bounds, running down the river side, shouting, casting stones through bedroom windows, and startling people from their sleep as best they could. But even this brief and imperfect warning (alas! never heard by many) only extended to the entrance of Holmfirth nearest the reservoir; for there the flood overtook the warners themselves, and was its own fearful herald of destruction and death. The scenes which occurred along the valley never could be described in all their sickening and heart-rending fullness: the rain was falling heavily, and the streets crowded with people; while along the banks hundreds were running madly about in their night-dresses, seeking their friends or bewailing their losses.

The Bilberry Mill, which stood a few hundred yards below the reservoir, which was in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Broadhead, was caught by the sudden swell, and about 10 feet of it, together with its gable, were washed down the valley. Digheley Upper Mill, on the same side, which was built of block stonework, is partly washed away, together with the whole of the farm buildings, which at the time contained twelve tons of hay, three cows, a horse, a goat, and a duck. The property of this mill was lately valued at upwards of £12,000, and it was in the hands of the executors of its late owner, Mr. George Hirst. The whole of this mill, extensive farm buildings, and seven cottages were swept down with the torrent, and with them four valuable cows, and a horse valued at forty guineas. Fortunately the inmates of the seven cottages escaped with their lives.

Bank-end Mill and its machinery is almost wholly destroyed. The wall surrounding Holme Bridge Church has been washed away by the torrent, and the few trees planted in the yard were uprooted, and had gone down the stream. The interior of the church and the graveyard presented a most awful spectacle. Inside the church the water had risen about five feet. The floor was torn up, the pews had been floating, and the floor was covered with sand and mud several inches thick. In the centre of the aisle was laid the body of the goat that had been washed from Upper Digheley Mill; and within a few feet of it, resting on the seat of one of the pews, lay the remains of an infant; and on the top of the stairs leading into the gallery lay the coffin and remains of a full-grown man. Both these human relics, with others not found, had been washed up from their graves by the whirlpools formed by the headlong current as it passed over the churchyard.

Hinchliffe Upper Mill was the next place reached by the rushing water, and here the devastation was immense, and the loss of life considerable. Six houses, which formed Water-street, were hurled forward with the flood, and nearly all the inmates perished. The houses in this neighbourhood not washed down were in some cases flooded into the chambers; and in one of them—the endmost left standing—there were sixteen individuals, who saved their lives by getting on an adjoining roof. In one of the houses that was flooded, the inmates were drowned. Their names are James Booth and his wife, and a lodger named William Healey. In the same block of buildings, the wife of Joseph Brook, clothier (who was endeavouring to save herself and child), was drowned with her infant in her arms. The following is a list of the occupants of the houses that were thrown down at Hinchliffe Mill, as nearly as could be ascertained from the neighbours, who were all busy with mops, buckets, and barrows, clearing their houses from the refuse of the flood:—The first house was occupied by Miss Marsden and three others; the second, by Joseph Dodd, steam tanner, his wife and two children; the third, by Jonathan Crossland, and seven others; the fourth, by James Metternick, clothier, and nine others; the fifth, by Joshua Earnshaw, master clothier, his little girl and two sons; and the sixth, by John Charlesworth, clothier, and nine others: out of the whole of whom, seven were said to have been saved, leaving 32 to be accounted for! Many of them were taken out of the water during Thursday. At the New Inn, at Hinchliffe Mill, seven of the bodies of those who had been drowned in their houses, were laid out.

Mr. James Metternick, about 24 years of age, who occupied a cottage on the hill side, opposite to Bottom's Mill, said:—"There were ten of us in our house—my father, step-mother, and eight children. Somebody came and roused us just after one o'clock. We looked out of the windows, and saw a large quantity of water and sticks coming down. From their appearance we knew the reservoir had burst. I and my step-mother came down stairs, then stood on the stairs, and my father handed us the children who were asleep in the house, for us to lift into the chamber. I ran with the rest into the garret, except my father and one child, who we expected were drowned in the house. About half a minute after we got into the garret, the whole house gave way, and we were all swept down the stream, and I saw no more of any of them. No part of the house touched me that I know of. When I got into Harpin's (Bottom's) dam, I caught hold of a piece of wood and sprang up. I got a good sob of breath, and then went under the water and lost my hold of the plank; on coming up again I got hold of another, and again rolled over; at last I got hold of a large piece of timber and kept my hold. I got hold of a small piece of wood and paddled it towards the side. A gush of wind then came and blew me towards the land on the Austonley side. I leaped off the timber and fell up to my neck in the water; but I managed to scramble out of the water, and after falling several times I got into Hannah Berry's, and stripped my trousers and shirt (all I had on) and went to bed. I was nearly exhausted."

Within a stone-throw of Victoria Mill stands Dyson's Mill, which was occupied by Mr. Jonathan Sandford. In the yard of the factory Mr. Sandford resided. His house was swept away, and with it were taken himself, his two children, and his servant.

In the factory yard of Mr. Farrar two children named Woodcock were drowned, and a little further down a third was discovered dead.

At the George Inn nine bodies, principally recovered from the stream, were laid. Amongst them were Jonathan Crossland, of Hinchliffe Mill, and his son, a young man, the latter of whom had been taken out at Upper Mill, where he had been so tightly wedged into the wall that two men had hard work to drag him out. Amongst these unfortunates was a woman named Hellwell, and her two children.

Between Mr. Farrar's dyehouse and Holmfirth is a place called Scar Fold, where a person named Hellwell, his wife, and two children resided. When the water burst into the house they were all in bed, and his wife and children were drowned. Hellwell jumped to the top of his loom, where he narrowly escaped death, but fortunately the water did not quite reach the ceiling, and he remained upon his precarious perch until it subsided.

At the end of Upper Bridge was a house occupied by a man named Bailey, with a wife and two children, which was entirely washed down, and the inmates and furniture thrown into the river. Bailey himself managed to get out again almost miraculously. He was thrown with great force to the opposite side of the river, caught hold of the railings and clung to them; his wife and children all perished. All the shops in this locality have been nearly destroyed. A man, manager for Mr. Crawshaw (of Dewsbury), a carrier, occupied one of these houses, and he and the whole of his family perished.

Adjoining the back of Mr. Wimpenny's house, in Gattle Bo'ton, which is lower and nearer the river than the front, there is a dwelling-house, in which a young man, servant to Mr. Floyd, solicitor, and a little boy, were sleeping. When the water burst into the house, the man took up the boy and attempted to pass up the staircase, but, unhappily, just as he passed the threshold himself, the door closed by the force of the water and separated them, leaving the boy in the lower room to drown, as was expected. The boy, however, was borne up by the force of the water, and catching hold of the top of the joists, he held by them until the water subsided. He was about an hour in this position, with the water nearly up to the ceiling.

In the locality of Mill Ford the flood has taken down several houses, and all its occupants and families have perished. S. Hartley, engineer, of Holmfirth Mill, and all his family, are supposed to have lost their lives. The house of Richard Shackleton was also taken down by the torrent, and both he and his wife, and two children, have disappeared. At the opposite side of the river, at this point, is a burial-ground attached to the Wesleyan chapel. Part of the vestry was destroyed, the interior of the chapel much damaged, and the graveyard very much torn up, and coffins were floated away from their resting-place. The vault in which the body of the late John Harpin, Esq., of Birks House, was interred about two years ago, was torn open, and the coffin, with the remains of the deceased, was carried away. What makes this rather remarkable, is the fact that Mr. Harpin was one of the chief promoters of the "Holme Reservoir" scheme.

The water swept through the lower part of the mill of Messrs. Wimpenny and Woodhead, at Thong's bridge, and carried away the dry-house and other outbuildings. The engine-man lived in a cottage on the premises. It was filled with water and gutted. In the moment of peril he sprang to the window to escape, but before he left it occurred to him to look back for his child, and on turning round it was just floating out beside him: he had only just time to catch it by a leg or an arm—thus saving both himself and child. The destruction of property is immense.

The heavy fall of rain during Saturday night and Sunday stayed for the time further search for the bodies of the sufferers. Up to Sunday morning the whole of the sixty-five bodies lying at the public-houses in and about Holmfirth had been identified except three, and certificates were issued that morning by the coroner to enable their friends and relatives to inter them. A great portion of the poorer sufferers were members of the Drakids, Oddfellows, and other friendly societies.

Sunday (the day of burial) was a gloomy day in Holmfirth. About sixty were removed for interment at different periods of the day, mostly in the villages on the adjoining hills or up the valley. Seven bodies were taken for interment to Holm Briggs Church, but the graves had become filled with water during the night, and the churchyard, being one which the flood had swept over, was altogether in such a state of devastation and disorder, from the disturbance of graves, the destruction of the yard walls, and other damage, that it was found expedient to place the bodies in a temporary resting-place in the church itself for some weeks to come.

Notwithstanding the rain, there was an immense influx of strangers, who had come to gratify their curiosity by inspecting the scenes of devastation.

On Monday last, the weather proving somewhat favourable, a search was made for the dead, when a number of bodies were found, which were inspected by the coroner's jury, who had appointed Friday for another meeting to identify the other bodies which it was expected would be discovered. One little girl, Sydney Hartley, who had a wonderful escape, stated that her mother having heard on the Wednesday previous to the accident that the reservoir was likely to burst, had resolved not to go to bed. She, however, put her family of eight children to bed, and sat up to await the issue, hoping to get sufficient warning to enable all to escape. If the report should prove correct. She sat up until one o'clock on Thursday morning, and then went to bed. The alarm reached almost immediately she had retired to rest. The girl states that the water burst upon them before they could get out of the chamber, and when her mother found they could not escape, she held up her infant child above the water outside the window, hoping to save it, but dodging the front of the house giving way, she turned and bade her family farewell, and was swept away with the babe in the foaming torrent. So also perished the father and four other children; but this little creature, with two sisters and the apprentice boy, who had also been sleeping in the house, being suddenly floated up to a part of the roof which yet remained, caught hold of the rafters and clung to them, from which they were ultimately rescued by persons who had previously succeeded in reaching the roof of the house.

The Holmfirth Ladies' Committee met on Monday evening to distribute clothing. The subscriptions raised in the town now amount to £1050. At Huddersfield a good deal of sympathy has been manifested for the sufferers. The Rev. J. Gwendinning preached a sermon at the Independent Chapel, which led to a collection of £29. At a public meeting, held on Monday at Huddersfield for the purpose of opening a subscription list for the sufferers, an application was stated to have been made to the relief committee for clothing on behalf of a family who prior to the accident, were worth upwards of £10,000. There was about £5000 subscribed. It was said that the Commissioners of the Holme Reservoir went a couple of sessions ago to Parliament with a bill to enable them to borrow a large sum of money for the necessary repairs of the reservoir. The bill was defeated in the House of Peers, in consequence of an objection raised by Lord Beaumont; and it was owing to that defeat that the present calamity had occurred.

IN OTHER PARTS OF YORKSHIRE there has also been serious damage done from the same cause—the excessive rains. On Sunday morning an aqueduct, which carries the river Roch across the front of the Littleborough tunnel of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, immediately over the line, burst, owing to the great accumulation of water from rain during the night, and inundated the line, so as to prevent several of the morning trains from passing along it. Mr. Hall, the superintendent at Manchester, and other officers belonging to the company, on receiving information of the accident by telegraph, hurried to the spot, and found a deep cutting of the line there converted into a water-course. Fortunately, the tunnel having a rising gradient under the hills into Yorkshire, the water took an opposite direction, and the damage was easily repaired. Mr. Hall caused the passengers to be taken from the Lancashire trains across the hill to the Yorkshire side, and he brought back the passengers from trains on that side to Lancashire, so that, except for a few hours, the stoppage did not lead to any very serious inconvenience. A great number of excavators were set to work to cut a new channel by the side of the line for the river, and, before night, one line of rail was entirely restored to working order. The obstruction in the railway tunnel caused by the overflow of the aqueduct has since been removed.

IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF MANCHESTER there has also been an inundation. The large reservoirs which are constructing near Woodhead, thirteen miles above Manchester, by the corporation of that town, were filled on Sunday that the engineer was under considerable apprehension that the Tor-side Reservoir, the embankment of which is not yet completed, would burst, and he very prudently despatched messengers down to the inhabitants below, warning them of the danger; but by keeping the water back as much as possible in the upper reservoir at Woodhead, and by employing a great number of excavators to cut an extra channel for the overflow from the Tor-side, so as to keep it off the embankment, the disaster was happily averted. The quantity of water stored in the Bilberry Reservoir, which has committed such devastation at Holmfirth, is as a backfill compared with the water in the Woodhead and Tor-side. So great was the accumulation of water, that Mr. Bateman had to discharge during many parts of the day at the rate of 3200 cubic feet of water per second, to prevent the disaster.

The Earl of Derby has consented to fill the office of patron of the Manchester Natural History Society, in the place of his late father.

Sir Edward Belcher is appointed to the command of the Arctic Expedition. It is understood that the nominations have included Captain Kellett as the second in command, and Captain McClintock and Lieut. Sherard Osborn, late of the *Pioneer*, to one of the steam-tenders.

An accident of a very serious nature occurred on Sunday, in Hyde-park, to Mr. Burnaby, a young officer of the Grenadier Guards. Mr. Burnaby was on duty, visiting the detachments, and, mounted on a spirited charger, was riding in the direction of the Magazine, when his horse, from some unknown cause, shied, reared, and fell sideways over the rails upon his rider. Several soldiers, as well as officers of the Royal Humane Society, ran to his assistance. On being raised he was quite unconscious, blood issuing from his mouth and nostrils. A litter having been procured, he was conveyed to the barracks, and medical assistance summoned. The surgeon of the regiment was fortunately on the spot, and, by the timely administration of restoratives, Mr. Burnaby soon recovered consciousness. His principal injury is in the region of the chest, where it is believed a small bloodvessel has been ruptured. On Monday Mr. Burnaby was sufficiently recovered to be removed to his father's residence, in Eaton-place.

On Wednesday morning, about eight o'clock, a serious fire broke out upon the premises belonging to Messrs. Frear and Co., cement and plaster of Paris merchants, No. 3 Wharf, Regent's-canal. The loss is said to be very great, but the sufferers are partially insured.

COUNTRY NEWS.

FLOOD AT HEREFORD.—The river Wye has from the continued rains been flooded for a fortnight, but on Thursday week it enlarged its borders to a more than common extent, and on the following morning its impetuosity reached its climax, running for several feet deep along the streets. The traffic of the city has been stopped, and no intercourse could be kept up with the inhabitants except by boats or waggons. The beehives of that celebrated naturalist, Dr. Bevan, were swept away, and the house was wholly surrounded by water, which was several feet deep in the rooms. No aid could be rendered to the imprisoned inhabitants, as hardly a boatman would undergo the peril of putting out. Several hundred hurdles, carcasses of sheep, and other animals, with farming implements of various sorts, were seen floating about on all sides. In many of the neighbouring districts a similar scene presented itself. Not one of the five daily coaches left the city for Gloucester, owing to the flood.

MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.—The annual meeting of the chamber was held on Monday at Manchester. T. Bazley, Esq., the president, took the chair. Mr. David Price moved that the report of the directors for the past year be received and entered on the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Joseph Simpson. Mr. Henry Ashworth, of Bolton, said it was very satisfactory to notice the progress which had taken place in the trade of this country since the adoption of Free-trade principles by the Legislature. To show what had been the result of this policy, he referred to the progress in the exports of our produce and manufactures. In the years 1840, 1841, and 1842 the average of the declared value of the exports was £28,140,692 per annum. In the years 1849, 1850, and 1851, the average was at least £68,771,464 per annum; but, as he had not the whole of the returns for 1851, he had only reckoned the exports to be the same as those of 1850, though it was well known there had been an increase of £3,000,000. In the three years 1840, 1841, and 1842, the average value of the export of cotton manufactures was £23,000,000. During the three years 1849, 1850, and 1851 they were nearly £28,000,000 in average value, showing an increase of 20 per cent. In the woollen manufacture the average of exports in the former period was £5,800,000, and in the latter it was £9,000,000, or an increase of 57 per cent. In the linen manufacture the exports during the first period were £3,500,000, and in the latter £4,600,000. The average value of the exports of the bulk of our other manufactures, including earthenware, hardware, machinery, &c., was in the former period £3,700,000, and in the latter £14,600,000, showing an increase of 68 per cent. The motion was carried unanimously, the directors and officers were appointed for the ensuing year, and the meeting terminated.

LIVERPOOL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.—The council of this association held a meeting on Monday, the first time since the annual general meeting, at which the following officers were elected:—Hugh Hornby, Esq., president; Francis Strand, Esq., vice-president; Samuel Stitt, Esq., treasurer. An interesting letter was read from W. Brown, Esq., M.P., on the subject of decimal currency, showing the facility with which the present currency of the kingdom could be settled on this convenient principle, such change requiring the introduction of a single new coin. The object was referred to a special committee. The meeting then broke up.

HOLYHEAD BREAKWATER WORKS.—A grand explosion took place a few days ago at Holyhead, in the quarries at the Mountain, now in course of working for material for the formation of the extensive breakwater and pier at the new harbour. Upwards of 7000 lb. of gunpowder were lodged in three chambers in a shaft 55 feet in depth, with 66 feet of heading, and this heavy charge was fired by means of wires attached to a galvanic battery. The explosion was, of course, instantaneous with the transmission of the electric fluid, and proved eminently successful, dislodging and throwing down upwards of 30,000 tons of stone, many masses of which were of immense weight. Several fatal accidents have lately occurred. A day or two before the above dislodgment a lamentable occurrence took place at the quarry, whereby a man named Owen Williams lost his life, being literally crushed to death by the falling of a large block of stone, weighing about four tons, upon him. He had been employed clearing away loose stones, when he slipped and fell, and before he could regain his footing, the heavy mass rolled on him, and occasioned instant death.

EASTERN COUNTIES AGRICULTURAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION.—A numerously and respectfully attended deputation, consisting of the members of this association, waited yesterday upon Lord John Russell at his official residence in Downing-street, for the purpose of impressing upon his Lordship the necessity of conceding the following objects:—The repeal of that malt tax; an equitable measure of tenant right; a thorough revision of the present mode of managing the county expenditure; the abolition of the game laws; the removal of restrictions to the growth of exciseable articles; and the adaptation of the tithe rent-charge to present prices. The deputation was introduced by Lord Rendlesham. The secretary having read an address to his Lordship, Lord J. Russell said he could not at present enter into all the important matters which had been brought under his notice, but he would not fail to give them the fullest consideration. He might observe, however, with regard to the malt tax, it must be understood that it supplied so large a source of revenue, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer could hardly afford to spare it. In respect to the excise duties, he remarked that he doubted whether they could make out their case that the consumption of corn was diminished by the duty on malt, because it must be remembered that the beer duty was taken off in 1830, and the war duty was repealed after the peace. He should not deny that the excise duties were in some degree injurious, but he thought it would be a serious thing for the Government to propose the entire abolition of the malt tax, or to substitute another tax for it. All the suggestions, however, which had been brought forward were well worthy of consideration, and he (Lord John Russell) promised them that they should receive the attention of the Government. Lord Rendlesham having thanked the Premier for the very courteous manner in which he had listened to the observations of the various speakers, the deputation withdrew.

THE FLOODS IN LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.—Mr. Bateman, the engineer for the Manchester Corporation waterworks, calculates that the depth of rain which fell in the Crowden valley, a little above the Woodhead reservoir, since the beginning of the month, is 6½ inches, but that that does not represent more than two-thirds of the average quantity upon the whole district; which on the highest hills must have exceeded ten inches. The quantity of water impounded in the Crowden reservoir was at one time not less than 150,000,000 gallons, though it is far from finished. For twenty-four hours the quantity discharged was the enormous total of 1730 cubic feet per second; and, during the rains on Wednesday and Thursday, at one time the flood attained so immense a bulk as to flow along at the rate of 4000 cubic feet per second. The pipes of the lowest reservoir were incessantly discharging from between 500 and 600 cubic feet per second.

FATAL OCCURRENCE AT BRIGHTON.—Miss Michelson, a lady about thirty years of age, the daughter of a gentleman residing at the Grand Parade, Brighton, while seeking shelter from the rain, on Tuesday afternoon, under the gateway of the Pavilion, was knocked down and dreadfully crushed by the falling of one of the ponderous gates. She was immediately conveyed in a fly to her home, where she expired in about half an hour afterwards. By the same accident, and Miss Langridge, daughter of the Clerk of the Peace for Sussex, was so severely hurt that concussion of the brain resulted. She is, however, pronounced not to be in immediate danger. Several other persons who were standing under the gateway at the same time received more or less injury.

At a large and influential meeting of members of the University of Oxford and of several of the leading citizens, held in the hall of Exeter College, on the invitation of the rector, to meet Sir James Brooke, for the purpose of hearing a statement from him respecting the mission to Sarawak, and the propriety of at once founding a Bishopric in Borneo, with an income of not less than £500 per annum: the rector, Dr. Hawkins, occupied the chair. Several excellent addresses having been made upon the subject, the following resolution was agreed to:—"A fund having been raised on the occasion of Sir James Brooke's visit to Oxford, in the year 1847, for the purpose of promoting the endowment of a Bishopric in Borneo, and it appearing from the statement made by Sir James Brooke at the meeting held on January 29 that the time was arrived for carrying this object into effect, that a committee be formed for the above purpose, with power to co-operate with similar committees to be formed in Cambridge and London." A subscription was at once commenced.

EAST RETFORD ELECTION.—The Hon. W. E. Duncombe, son of Lord Feverham, was returned as member for East Retford on Wednesday, without opposition, in the room of his uncle, Captain the Hon. A. Duncombe, who is now one of the representatives of the Earl Rodney, of Yorkshire. At the close of the election the hon. member addressed his constituents as a Protectionist.

GREENWICH ELECTION.—On Monday the nomination of candidates for the representation of this borough, vacant by the appointment of Admiral Dundas to the command of the Mediterranean, took place. Mr. Montague Chambers, the eminent Queen's Counsel, was proposed and seconded by Mr. James Laing, of Greenwich, and Mr. T. B. Knott, of Deptford. Admiral Houston Stewart was proposed and seconded by Mr. John Pontifex, of Greenwich, and Mr. William Joly, of Woolwich. There was very little difference between the political sentiments of the two candidates; Mr. M. Chambers, however, declared himself an advocate for a very extensive franchise and the vote by ballot. Admiral Stewart was supported by the Government interest and the friends of Admiral Dundas. The poll commenced on Tuesday, and at four o'clock, when it finally closed, the numbers were—

For Admiral Stewart	..	..	..	..	2956
For Mr. Chambers	..	..	..	..	1211

—1745

On Wednesday the relieving officer declared Admiral Houston Stewart to be duly elected.

WRECK OF THE "AMAZON."—On Monday last, after much boisterous weather, a long piece of new timber (red pine), very much burnt, with a bolt attached, was washed ashore in Seaford Bay, from the westward; and there exists no doubt whatever but that it is part of the unfortunate steam-ship *Amazon*. It is in the possession of Mr. Henry Simmonds, bailiff and mayor of the town and port, and supposed to be a portion of one of the paddle-boxes. The step of a mast, and some other charred fragments, have also been picked up in the neighbourhood. The wreck must have drifted about 400 miles.

BASINGSTOKE AND SALISBURY RAILWAY.—On Saturday the standing orders were declared not complied with in the case of this company's bill for making a railway from Basingstoke, in the county of Southampton, to Salisbury, in the county of Wilt, at a cost of £240,000. The non-compliance was only with reference to the point as to whether the subscription contract signed for £212,200, and with 21,220 paid up, was a copy of the original.

Sergeant Kinglake has addressed the electors of Bridgwater, soliciting their votes at the next election.

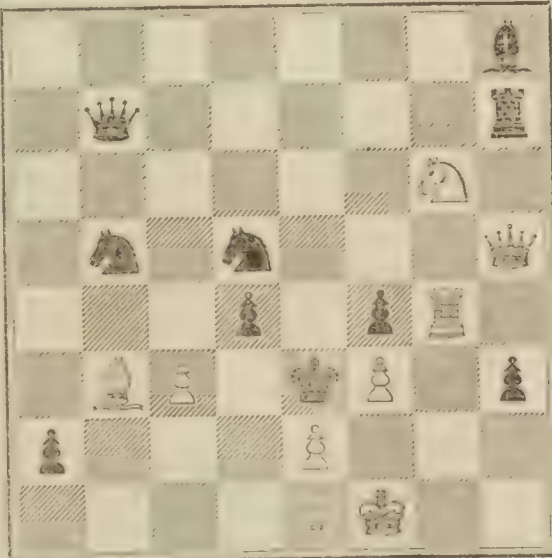
NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

everying a ball took place at the town-hall, under the patronage of the mayor
other inhabitants of the borough.

PORT SPARKS.—Mr. Dobson's Dawson beat Mr. Moody's Royalist; Mr. Gill's Great Northern beat Mr. Fyson's First-rate; Mr. Klag's Repute beat Mr. B. Werth's Beethoven.

The animals in their treatment exhibit all the characteristic intellig

BLACK.



No. 714.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

TATTERSALL'S.

Great Northern beat Mr. Fyson's First-rate; Mr. King's Repute beat Mr. Buckworth's Beethoven.

BRITISH INSTITUTION.—WORKS OF LIVING
ARTISTS.

The animals in their treatment exhibit all the characteristic intelligen



A MOUNTAIN SPRING.—PAINTED BY H. JUTSUM.

and truthfulness of surface which we expect from this accomplished hand, but the landscape is unequally painted; the massive granite rocks on the left are accurately studied, but the green patches introduced on the right are thinly and carelessly laid on, and fail of their intended effect for want of aerial perspective.

H. Jutsum has three landscapes in different styles. No. 69, "Ivy Bridge, Devonshire," is a bit of genuine English scenery: a snug little village nestling in a vale, sheltered by trees; the light smoke from some of the chimneys stealing gently upwards amidst the dews of evening. In the foreground is a group of cattle arrived just in time at the homestead, as the last ray of the evening sun

Hering has presented us with two beautiful pieces of scenery—No. 204, "The Castle of Betzko and the Valley of the Waag, in Hungary," and No. 244, "The Island of Capri," the latter of which is most to our taste, being indeed exquisitely treated. The mountain isle, glowing in the rays of the setting sun, rises boldly out of the sea, the portion of which intervening between it and the eye of the spectator is partially in the shade. More exquisite still, however, than either of the above, is the same artist's imaginative subject, "Le Solitaire," (No. 467). The scene is a wild, marshy district, probably in Greece, with the ruins of a classic temple paling in the gloom, which is about to envelop the setting sun. Standing alone, most melancholy in solitude, and on

is setting upon it. All is true to nature in conception, and deliciously executed. No. 321, "A Mountain Spring" (which we engrave), represents a heath, with its variously-coloured herbage, and a sparkling streamlet bounding from the distance towards the front on one side. The effect of eventide is well developed in the treatment of the sky; and some figures of wayfarers, judiciously introduced, form, by their warmth of local colour, an agreeable point of repose for the eye. No. 404, entitled "In the Happy Month of June," introduces us to a sequestered dell, in which a deep water-course bespeaks refreshing coolness even beneath a midsummer sky. A tone of warmth is introduced into the colouring in the middle parts of the picture, which betrays the effect of the sultry heat of summer; although we cannot say that the sky tints are quite in harmony with this idea.

Middleton's picture of "Waybourne, on the Norfolk Coast" (No. 226), with an ominous distich attached—

He who would old England win,
Must at Waybourne Hope begin—

is painted in a full, truthful style, without any attempt at affectation or trick. The subject is a good one—a fine open country, with bold sea-reach in the distance—and has been done justice to.

We wish we could speak favourably of Linton's "Scene near Naples" (No. 277), but it is impossible; nor must we pass it unnoticed. Here we have an awkward group of idlers, not particularly well drawn, under a leafy shade, beneath a miserably cold and leaden sky, itself a perfect libel upon the atmospheric reputation of fair Naples. The colours are jumbled together without taste or attempt at harmony; and are in themselves signally devoid of brightness and transparency.

Holland has three pictures, in which his remarkable talent for colouring is manifested more or less successfully. "Genoa, from the East Rampart, Sept., 1851" (No. 1), represents the famed bay of that name under the influence of a coming storm—the sea deep, blue, cold; the surface crisping under the breeze; whilst on the right the rampart stands out boldly in the always clear, but now preternaturally clear, atmosphere. We are not altogether satisfied with the "manner" (that is the word) in which some of the architectural details are laid in; and the ugly wenchies sprawling about on the top of the wall at the extreme right so detract from the general effect, that we could wish the artist had let them fall into the sea before he took his sketch. No. 215, "The Lagoons of Venice," is a small sea-piece, differently treated; the rich colouring of the gondolas in the foreground, and the cheerful outline of the island city in the far distance, adding a happy life-like effect, which is wanting in the last-named production. In No. 460, the "Piazza Signori, Verona," the artist chooses a remarkable architectural situation, a double arch standing across the street, which divides the picture, breaking the blue sky into patches, the lower part blending with various coloured roofs, buildings, &c., in the mid distance. In the foreground some figures are introduced; but the artist is not fortunate in such subjects, and they only spoil the general effect of his work, which, though far from faultless, is yet highly creditable. What this artist appears to want in his colouring is a little more attention to harmony and a little less striving after strong effects.



THE SHEPHERD'S DAUGHTER.—PAINTED BY T. F. MARSHALL.

the very border of a small lake, is a venerable heron, whose outline is so faintly put in, that upon a first glance at the picture his presence is hardly perceived. The colouring of this charming *morceau* is rich and transparent, and admirable for tone and keeping.

Marshall's little picture of the "Shepherd's Daughter" (which we engrave) is a chaste and pleasing study. The colouring being warm and genial, the figure stands out with remarkable effect against a clear blue sky. The sheep and other accessories are tastefully introduced.

We have yet several works of merit and interest to mention, but must reserve them for a second notice.

THE TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND HASTINGS RAILWAY.



BATTLE STATION.

This new line of railway was opened for traffic on the 1st inst. On emerging from the tunnel at Bopeep, the line curves, crossing the race-course in a direction for Grove Farm. At this spot a farewell glimpse is caught of the sea on the left, with Filsham House, the residence of Mr.

E. Farncombe, standing on an elevation in the foreground. Traversing some heavy cuttings, the train soon reaches Wilton, near the farm-house of that name, and passes over the great bog before alluded to. Leaving these in the rear, an enchanting view of Crowhurst Vale, with the church,

High-house, together with a distant sight of Bexhill and the neighbour hood, is obtained. This mingled scene of hill and dale, wood and village, presents one of those fair spots in nature which refresh the traveller, who, hurrying through tunnel and cutting to annihilate time and



WADHURST TUNNEL.

space, for a moment disregards the beauties of the country through which he is passing. On the right of the line is Crowhurst-place, the domain of G. Gatty, Esq. Further on is a deep cutting through Telham-hill: at the top of the south embankment stands the old farm-house. We un-

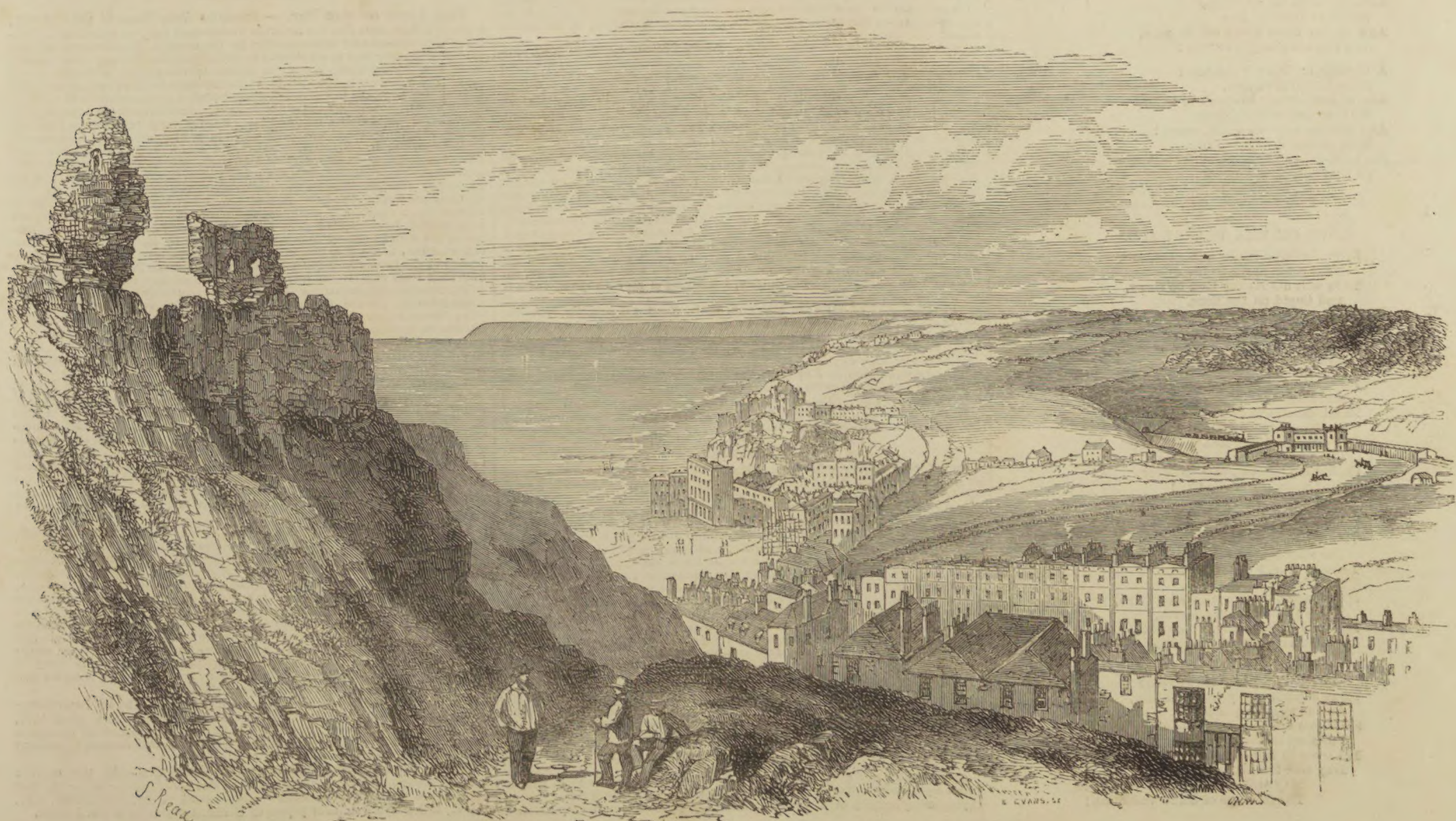
derstand that a suspension-bridge will be constructed here; and from the summit of Telham-hill the best view of Battle Abbey and its vicinity is obtained. The train, after passing under the Hastings and Battle coach-road, arrived at the Battle station at five minutes past seven

o'clock; it then left for Tunbridge, calling at the various stations along the line.

The stations on this line are at Frait, Wadhurst, Ticehurst-road, Etchingham, Robertsbridge, and Battle. Those at Frait, Etchingham



ETCHINGHAM STATION.



HASTINGS AND THE RAILWAY STATION.

and Battle are of Gothic character, built of native stone, with Caen stone dressings, the roofs being covered with alternate bands of plain and ornamental tiles. The booking-office roofs are open-framed of stained fir, and have a good effect. The stations at Wadhurst, Ticehurst-road, and Robertsbridge, are Italian in design, of red and white brick and Caen stone. There are also several lodges for gatekeepers at level crossings, of similar character to the stations. The architect is Mr. William Trees, of Finsbury-square, who also designed the St. Leonard and Hastings stations; the latter is seen in the distance in our View of Hastings, and is remarkable for the disposition of its plan, arising from a peculiarity of situation, in an angle formed by the junction of two lines of railway; it is of pleasing Italian character. The contractors for the Battle Station were Messrs. Smith, of Rye.

"The completion of this line (says the *Sussex Advertiser*) is an important event for Hastings, since it opens a communication with an entirely new district, Robertsbridge, Hawkhurst, Tunbridge Wells, and a great portion of Kent; a district which, though not so extensive, is quite as 'foreign' as that introduced to Hastings by the opening of the Ashford branch. We think that the corn-market and trade of the town will also be benefited by the facility of transit thus established. The abbey and neighbourhood of Battle will doubtless induce a great influx of persons from Hastings and St. Leonard's, while the market established at Robertsbridge will reap benefit by being brought within reach of these parts. Hastings and St. Leonard's have now twenty-two trains daily arriving and departing from their stations; viz. South-coast eight, Tunbridge Wells branch eight, and Ashford branch six. No less than ninety-six towns are now brought into direct railway communication with Hastings and St. Leonard's."

ST. VALENTINE'S-DAY.

In honour of the very popular and propitious Saint who presides over this day (Feb. 14.) we present each of our readers with the proper flowers of the season—the true love-knot—

A BUNCH OF VALENTINES.

The time draws nigh, on fragrant wing,
Of Summer beams and bells;
But Love comes faster than the Spring,
And works with sweeter spells.

To him, upon the unsunn'd breeze,
Immortal odours float;
And they may sail o'er ice-bound seas,
Who take his golden boat.

The primrose faints within thy hair,
The snowdrop looketh pale;
There is not sunshine in the air,
Nor singing on the gale.

Look in with those beloved eyes
Upon this heart of mine;
Bloom, scent, and song will all arise,
To hail my Valentine!

Soon to the Rose the Nightingale
Shall breathe his tender lay;
But Love, that hath a sweeter tale,
Must tell that tale to-day.
In sighs, which are the spirit's song,
My soul is pour'd to thine;
And time grows young, and hope grows strong,
To hail my Valentine.

Since darken'd hearts Love maketh bright,
What might he do for ours?
Make all their fancies speak in light,
Their feelings grow in flowers.
Glad fancies, flinging song about,
Like stars, the while they shine,
And feelings giving fragrance out
Because they intertwine.

Wherever Love hath touch'd the ground,
It is the time of roses;
Of fairy wreaths within whose round
The sighing soul reposes.
Oh! take my spirit home to thine,
Elsewhere 'tis wintry weather.
Hearts only yield their bloom divine
When two have bloom'd together.

Now, blessed be Saint Valentine,
By whose high leave I pour
Words in this gentle ear of thine
I never dared before!
Each thing to-day, in glade or nook,
May name its Valentine;
I read out boldly from Love's book,
And, dearest, thou art mine!

The breeze hath found the wallflower out,
And feedeth on its sigh;
The hunter bee now hunts about
The violet's deep-blue eye:
Escaping from its icy chain,
The river runneth free,
And so, my heart flings off its pain,
And cometh straight to thee!

A blessing on Saint Valentine!
He is a good old saint,
And maketh strong to speak to thine
My soul that was so faint.
And then he serves a spirit, sweet!
More loving than his own:
His task, to lead Love's pilgrim feet
To Hymen's altar-throne.
So, blessings on Saint Valentine,
I am his worshipper, and thine!

LOVE ON THE THRESHOLD.

Love, lady, on his own bright morn,
Hath brought me to thy door;
Thou wilt not let thy look be scorn,
And Cupid on the floor.
To-day, for old Saint Valentine,
He ringeth all his bells,
And I am trusting, lady mine,
To him and to his spells.

He sits to-day by every hearth,
And sings to every heart—
In all the chorus of his mirth,
Hath only thine no part?
Oh! coldness never look'd before
From loving eyes like thine;
So, bid me, dearest, pass the door,
And claim my Valentine!

LOVE BY THE CHURCH.

The leaf is not upon the tree,
The song-bird in the grove,
Yet hear I, as I gaze on thee,
The singing of the dove.
Spring scents I cannot miss or prize,
While feeding on thy breath,
Nor do I seek for bright blue skies
Whilst thou art underneath.

What care I that the stream be dim,
Whilst thou art by the stream?
There cometh to my heart a hymn,
And to mine eyes a gleam,
From yon old church, whose merry bells
Fling up to heaven their mirth,
Yet seem to whisper, "Heaven's spells
May here be cast for earth."
May such be to thy soul and mine
The message of Saint Valentine!

LOVE'S HOME.

Look, love! upon the picture fair my heart hath traced for thee,
When all to thine shall be that heart, as thou art all to me;
And if the picture to thine eyes seem sweet as unto mine,
Oh! turn thy beauty on my soul, and be my Valentine!

We two will have a summer cot o'ermantled by the vine,
And by the flower-crown'd porch a bench whereon the sun may shine;
And tamed by thy fair hand and fed, all sweet-voiced birds shall come—
The blackbird singing from our grove, the red-breast by our home.

And sylvan scenes shall stretch away before our windows wide;
The far-away seem beautiful whilst thou art by my side:
There hand in hand we'll wander forth where soft the daylight dies,
And I will ask no other light than that within thine eyes.

Oh! is it not a picture fair, this happy home of ours?
'Tis drawn by Love's own arrow, and its framework is his flowers;
Whose perfumes, sweeter than themselves, survive their own decay,
If Saint Valentine hath bless'd them on his own auspicious day.

[In allusion to a practice familiar on Valentine's morning in the north.
The lover surprises his mistress, and blindfolds her with his hands.]

GUESS, and guess truly, lady mine,
Who is abroad as thy Valentine?
Whose are the fingers, and whose is the vow,
That press on thy forehead, that blesseth thee now?
Love for such lore hath no need of his eyes,
To the loving the lover is known by his sighs.
Oh! for a spell on thy lips of love's art!
Say, is my name, dearest! I writ on thy heart?

Surely thy soul and thy brow understand
The voice of my spirit, the clasp of my hand.
Oh! if they read not my riddle this morn,
That hand must be widow'd, that spirit forlorn.
This is the day when in city and grove
Love is a wanderer seeking for love.
Who is the fond one now pleading for thine?
Guess, and guess truly, my own Valentine!

THE THEATRES.

ROYAL WINDSOR THEATRICALS, AND THE PRINCESS' THEATRE.

We had lately occasion to remark that the illustrious example of her Majesty was calculated greatly to encourage the best theatrical efforts; and proof of it has been rendered in a remarkably praiseworthy manner by the revival of Shakespeare's tragedy of "King John," both at Windsor Castle last Friday and at the Princess' Theatre on Monday. All previous attempts at getting up of this great historical drama have been excelled by the present example. Mr. Keane has manifested an unparalleled liberality and taste in the distribution of the parts, the scenic illustrations, the costumes, and whatever else conduces to the effective representation of an historical drama. Mr. Keane has also provided adequate representatives for all the *dramatis personae*, as well as adequate representations of their whereabouts and the epoch in which they flourished. His own *King John* is a part on which he has evidently thought much, and to which he has applied some of the best principles of the dramatic art. The repose and chivalrous feeling of the character are equally well preserved; and, notwithstanding the faults of the man, we are never permitted to forget the dignity of the monarch. The struggle of emotion with which he tempts *Hubert* to the murder of *Arthur* is the touchstone of the actor's merit; and here Mr. Keane rose to the level of his father's genius. The manner in which he turned his eyes on the devoted boy, and the suppressed tones in which he suggested the assassination, were finely terrible and awfully suggestive. Equally effective, too, was his subsequent interview with *Hubert*, when reproaching him with his readiness to commit the murder, and his change of mood on finding that *Arthur* lived. His sickness and death were artistically interpreted—equally full of poetry and truth. To Mrs. Keane's *Constance* we can assign a high rank. It rose to pathos and terror; while its maternal sentiment awakened sympathy in every feeling bosom, its beauty commanded the admiration of every judicious mind. It was exceedingly picturesque; and the manner in which she reclined on the earth, as the only fitting supporter of her great grief, was grandly conceived. Her madness was wonderful in its bewilderment; and the final gust of despair heartrending in its unmitigated pathos.

We were exceedingly pleased with Miss Kate Terry's *Princess Arthur*, and Mr. Ryder's *Hubert* was of a rare excellence. Mr. Wigan's *Faulconbridge* was distinguished by all that artist's originality. In the comic portions he came out with great force, and exerted himself to give a gallant bearing to the character in a manner to merit the highest praise. The performance was decidedly successful, and must raise the management in the public estimation. Such efforts, so carried out, show that there is no real decline of the drama in England, and inspire the warmest hopes for the future.

DRURY-LANE.

Gresset's poem, "Vert-Vert," the pet name of a parrot, suggested some twenty years since to MM. Leuven and de Forges the subject of a vaudeville, in which the inimitable Déjazet greatly distinguished herself at the Parisian theatre, the Palais Royal. The story of the ballet is in a nutshell. *Vert-Vert*, the pet parrot, dies of a surfeit of *dragées* and bonbons, and *Blanche* and the other maids of honour of the Queen transfer their affection to *Candide*, who has for preceptor *Columbus*. *Candide* soon introduces his boon companions, a set of merry pages, to the maids of honour, despite of the vigilance of their governess, and overcomes the scruples of *Columbus*, by making him intoxicated with champagne. After a series of adventures in the park and in the dormitory of the palace, there is a general marriage of the court ladies to the pages, and the ballet winds up with a grand ball.

The incidents of "Vert-Vert" are not very animated or ingenious, but the figures of some of the *pas* and groupings are exceedingly novel and clever. *Mdlle. Plunkett's pas de deux* with *Durand*, and their *pas Espagnol*, drew down thunders of applause; and *Mdlle. de la Vecchi* quite sustains the glory of the Italian school.

Since the first night of "Vert-Vert," on the 6th inst., it has been much curtailed in its four tableaux. Besides the *pas* we have specified, the "Pas des Trois Graces," danced by *Mdlles. Adèle, A. Payne, and D'Antoine*; a "Pas Chinois," executed by *Messrs. Marshall* and some *coryphées*, and a *galop général*, are greatly applauded. It is the most effective and graceful *corps de ballet* that has yet been seen on an English stage. Mr. W. H. Payne, as *Columbus*, the tutor; Mr. Marshall, as the Court ballet-master; and *Mdlles. Louise, Honey, and Browne*, as the King's pages, render good service.

Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor" was revived on Tuesday night, with Mrs. Sims Reeves as the heroine, Mr. Whitworth, *Henry Ashton*; Mr. Manvers, *Arthur*; Mr. S. Jones, *Raymond*; and Mr. Sims Reeves, *Edgar of Ravenswood*. The divine melodies of this opera have given a vitality and popularity to Donizetti's work in every language, that the feebleness with which the librettist has treated Sir Walter Scott's novel, has not in the slightest degree effected; and, however hackneyed *Lucia* may have been in this country, it is always heard with the greatest delight. Mr. Sims Reeves's *Edgar* is justly regarded as one of his most effective parts, and his singing on this occasion quite sustained his reputation, the attraction of the cast being assuredly centered in himself, as, despite of the musical intelligence, taste, and feeling of his *cara sposa*, *Lucia* is beyond her physical powers.

"Robert le Diable," with Miss Crichton, *Mdlle. Evelina Garcia*, Mr. Manvers, Mr. Drayton, Mr. S. Jones, and Mr. Fédor, was repeated for the eighth time on Wednesday; and Auber's "Fra Diavolo," with Mr. and Mrs. Sims Reeves, Miss P. Horton, Messrs. Manvers, S. Jones, W. H. Payne, and Whitworth, for the fourth time on Thursday.

The new opera composed by Balfe, the libretto by M. de St. Georges and Mr. Bunn, is in active preparation. The action is in Sicily, and affords scope for a splendid *mise en scène*. The cast will comprise Miss Crichton, Miss P. Horton, Miss Rebecca Isaacs, Mr. Drayton, Mr. S. Jones, Mr. Whitworth, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Toulmin, a new barytone.

HAYMARKET.

On Saturday Mr. Barry Sullivan, of Manchester and Liverpool fame, appeared at this theatre in the part of *Hamlet*. In the present dearth of juvenile actors, we were sorry to find that the public took so little interest in the event, and we fear that, notwithstanding the evident merits of Mr. Sullivan, the impression produced by his *actor* will be exceedingly small. Weak of voice and *physique*, Mr. Sullivan finds it necessary to substitute mental ingenuity for force; and though, in this way, his efforts result in some new readings and novelties of acting, the absence of any adequate reason for these variations, except the actor's own want of the requisite power, deprives him of the expected appreciation. Mr. Sullivan's intelligence is remarkable, and he delivers the text with critical discrimination; but, unluckily, prefers readings liable to dispute, which, however in the country they may gain the praise of cleverness for an actor, are in London held of little account. His action is, however, always elegant, and his attitudes frequently picturesque. We trust that he will prove sufficiently successful to be, at least, useful on the metropolitan boards.

OLYMPIC.

"Matrimonial, a Gentleman, &c.," is a farce by Mr. Bridgman, turning on the incident of a matrimonial advertisement in the *Sunday Times*. Mr. Shalders and Mr. Compton are involved in divers mistakes in consequence, and their perplexities are amusing. The piece was successful.

MARIONETTE THEATRE.

A new piece, called "The United Service," has been added to these puppet amusements, well written and containing some amusing political hits. It is in rhyme, many couplets of which are directed against the Napoleon *coup d'état*.

PUNCH'S THEATRE.—Mr. E. Stirling, stage-manager, has announced his benefit at this theatre for Monday, the 23d inst. The performances will commence with "Gone to Texas," to be followed by a Concert, the "Wedding-day," &c.

WOOLWICH.—Mr. Henry Betty and Miss Edith Heraud terminated their second engagement at this theatre on Saturday last, with the plays of the "Hunchback" and "Katherine and Petruchio." In the former, Miss Heraud enacted *Helen* with great spirit and tact. On Monday and Wednesday "Hamlet" and "The Wife" were performed. In both, Miss Heraud and Mr. Betty made a deep impression on the audience.

MUSIC.

MUSICAL WINTER EVENINGS.

The great and deserved success which has attended Mr. Ella in his management of the "Musical Union," and in his present undertaking the "Musical Winter Evenings," has arisen from his determination to extend instead of narrow the domain of art, by displaying novelty and variety in his programmes, and by exhibiting the specialties of exponents from every country in the interpretation of the different works. This system, although it may not suit the selfish and narrow-minded views of the bigoted traders in art, is approved of by the large majority of independent amateurs, to whom the musical profession must look for patronage and support. Those connoisseurs who pay for the enjoyment of music do not like to be tied down to the worship of idols. If they enter the classic concert-room, it is with the same feelings as they view the collection in a picture gallery—they have no desire to be surfeited with specimens of one school, for nature speaks many languages, and music discourses most eloquently in varied styles. In last Thursday's scheme, being the second of the series, Mr. Ella had the courage to introduce works by two rising composers, respecting whose pretensions the worldly warfare has been already sufficiently desperate. The thorough-paced professional purists, whose ideas are circumscribed within the smallest possible circle, including therein only their idols and themselves, are fearfully indignant that a Frenchman and a Dutchman should exhibit signs of musical genius.

If the very remarkable trio in C minor, for pianoforte, violin, and violoncello, executed by the composer, M. Silas, M. Sainon, and Signor Piatti, and the two songs "May-day" and "Venice," from the set of six Songs of France, by M. Gounod, with English words by Mr. Chorley, and sung by the new tenor, Mr. Swift, be not inspirations out of the ordinary category of musical composition, then must the accepted notions of the ideal and inventive be altogether wrong, for both in the forms and ideas of the two composers, in the works above referred to, do we recognise all the attributes of originality, freshness, and spontaneity. In the opening allegro of the trio, the beautiful cantabile replacing the first subject is perfectly novel and ingenious. The scherzo is suggestive of Mendelssohn, but the treatment is piquant and in Silas's own manner; the andante, with its singing solo for the violoncello, and a very fiery finale, are movements replete with marked contrasts. The chief defect we find in this trio is its length; the imagination of youth is prolific, and the tact of concentration must be acquired by experience. The gifted composer was enthusiastically called for at the end of the trio.

We have mentioned the songs of Gounod on other occasions; Miss Dolby has been singing some of them, particularly the Hunting Song, with immense success; the two selected by Mr. Swift are exceedingly beautiful, particularly the "Venice," the proportions of which are grand and impressive, and to the musical accompaniment of which only four hands can do adequate justice. Mr. Swift also sang Mendelssohn's elegant song, "By Celia's arbour," which was re-demanded.

The remainder of the programme included Mozart's Quintet in A and Spohr's Nonetto in F, Op. 31, in which the abilities of M. Sainon, Mr. A. Mellon, first and second violins; Mr. Hill, viola; Signor Piatti, violoncello; Mr. Frazer, contrabasso; Signor Briccialdi, flute; Mr. Nicholson, oboe; Mr. Lazarus, clarinet; Mr. O. Harper, horn; and Mr. Baumann, bassoon, were called into play.

MUSICAL EVENTS.

The English Glee and Madrigal Union gave their fourth concert, the last of the present series, at Willis's Rooms, on Monday night. Mrs. Anderson, Miss Williams, Messrs. Lockey, Land, Francis, and Phillips sang at the organ and Countess of Morella (Cabrera) last week. On Thursday the Union sang in aid of the funds of the Marylebone Literary and Scientific Institution.

Mrs. A. Gibbs gave a lecture on sacred music, at the Queen Anne-street Rooms last Monday.

Mr. Aguilar presented the third and last of his Beethoven pianoforte evenings, assisted by Herr Lütgen (violin) and Mrs. C. S. Wallack (vocalist), at the Queen Anne-street Rooms, on Tuesday night.

M. Billet commenced, at the St. Martin's Hall, on Tuesday night, his third annual series of six performances of classical pianoforte music.

Mr. Handel Gear, the tenor, began a series of *soirées musicales*, at his residence, No. 17, Saville-row, last Tuesday, assisted by the principal vocalists in town.

The third of the City Wednesday Concerts took place on the 11th, under M. Billet's direction. The chief artists were the Misses Poole, Cundell, Eyles, Bassano; Messrs. G. Tedder and Cotton; M. Lavigne, oboist; the Ciebras, guitarists; Herr Jansa, violinist; Herr Schmidt, M. and G. Lütgen.

The twelfth and last *soirée* of the Réunion des Arts took place on Wednesday, at the Queen Anne-street Rooms, Madame and Herr Goffrie, Herr Schmidt, Mr. Boose, Mr. Goodban, Mdlle. Magner, Mdlle. Lemaire, and the Misses M'Alpine, aiding in the programme. On the 20th inst. a *soirée* will be given for the benefit of the directors, Herr Goffrie and Herr Gollmick.

At Salaman's Amateur Choral Society, on Wednesday, Mendelssohn's "Elijah" was executed.

The Sacred Harmonic Society performed last night, under Costa's direction, for the second time, Mendelssohn's "Elijah," with Mr. Brownsmith as organist, and Mr. Cooper principal violin. The vocalists were Mrs. Anderson, Miss Amy Dolby, Miss Dolby, Miss Williams, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Walker, Mr. Smythson, Mr. A. Novello, and Mr. Whitworth.

Mr. Brinley Richards, the pianist and composer, performed at the Town-hall, Carmarthen, last Wednesday, for the benefit of the Infirmary.

A morning concert, in aid of the families of the crew of the *Amazon*, was given at the Town-hall, Brighton, last Saturday, by Madame Oury, the accomplished pianiste, aided by Mr. Oury, violinist; Piatti, violoncellist; the Misses Pyne, and Herr Reichardt, the German tenor.

THE ARMY OF THE POPE.—Accounts from Rome of the 31st ult., say the *Débats*, state that the Austrian Government has just offered to the Pontifical Government such great facilities for the creation of a Roman army, that that measure may now be considered as definitively decided on. The effective strength of the Pontifical troops was settled by the treaties of 1815 at 20,000 men. The following is the plan in which this matter will be carried out:—All the existing corps will be disbanded and remodelled; two regiments of a foreign legion will be recruited for out of the country. Austria lends the town of Como as the centre of formation for this force. Each of these regiments will be 2500 strong. These 5000 men will none of them be Italians, and, as far as can be, Swiss, Austrian, and Bavarian. Baden will also furnish its contingent. Two Roman or Italian regiments, each of 3500 men, will be formed from the remnants of the regiment of guards and other troops, which were in course of organisation. The gendarmierie will be carried up to a strength of 5000 men, 4000 of whom are already enrolled. A battalion of foot chasseurs, of from 1200 to 1500 strong, a regiment of dragoons, and one or two brigades of artillery, will complete this force of 20,000 men. The 5000 gendarmes, the 5000 Swiss and Germans, and the battalion of chasseurs commanded by M. Alderon-Polomba, an officer devoted to the Holy See, will form an effective force which will insure the fidelity of the two native regiments, and will permit the Pontifical Government to protect itself with its own troops. The formation and support of this army will entail fresh charges on the Treasury. The necessary outlay is estimated at about 2,000,000 piastres, which is just about the amount of the deficit of last year. Some Roman subjects, who had joined in a more or less active manner the Roman revolution, but who had received permission to remain in the Holy City, have just received orders to quit immediately the Roman States. Some new names have also been added to the list of such of the inhabitants as cannot leave their houses before sunrise or remain out of them after sunset.

POSTAGE OF BOOKS, &c.—By a Treasury warrant, dated Feb. 6, 1852, in pursuance of the 11th Victoria, it is ordered that printed books, magazines, &c., whether British, colonial, or foreign, posted in the United Kingdom and directed to Ceylon, or posted in Ceylon and directed to the United Kingdom, may be transmitted under the following regulation:—Not exceeding half a pound weight to be charged 6d.; not exceeding a pound, 1s.; not exceeding two pounds, 2s.; not exceeding 3 pounds, 3s.; for every additional pound, or fraction of a pound, 1s. more. The dimensions of each package not to exceed two feet in length or breadth. The postage to be prepaid by stamps affixed outside, near the address. The warrant to come into operation on the 1st of March.

LAUNCH OF A NEW STEAM-VESSEL.—On Tuesday was launched, from Mr. Patterson's yard, Bristol, a new steam vessel, called the *America*. She was planned and designed by William Morgan, for many years the consulting engineer and naval architect to the Austrian Lloyd's Steam Company, and was built by Mr. Patterson, the builder of the *Great Western*, *Great Britain*, &c. The *America* has been visited during her construction by many eminent engineers, shipbuilders, and other scientific characters, as well as nautical gentlemen, by whom she has uniformly been awarded the palm for beauty of model, and for a rare combination of great strength with comparative lightness. Her engines have been constructed by Messrs. Miller, Ravenhill, and Salkeld, on the oscillating principle, with the feathering paddle-wheels, known as Morgan's paddle-wheels, and will be erected in the vessel at Bristol. The *America* was christened by Miss Edlman, daughter of one of the directors.

The Russian Government has declined connecting the St. Petersburg-Warsaw railway with the Great Prussian Eastern railway, now being built, from Berlin to Königsberg. Russia is too intent on cutting off all connexion between its subjects and the population of Western Europe, to allow its confines to be crossed by locomotives.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.—At the current monthly council meeting on the 4th inst., of this society, the prize for the best essay on the "Production of Butter" was awarded to Mr. Rowlandson, C.E., F.G.S., author of the series of papers on British Agriculture in this Journal.

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